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Ntshekane: an Early Iron Age site in the Tugela Basin, Natal

by

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SYNOPSIS

This paper reports on the Early Iron Age site of Ntshekane, near Muden, which was excavated in 1973. Particular attention is given to the description and illustration of the pottery as this is the first sample of its kind. A few vessels are of the type described by Schofield as NC3. However, the bulk of the material, while related, appears to be a later development; it is dated to the ninth century A.D. All the pottery is of Early Iron Age typology and it is suggested that the term NC3, which is misleading, should be replaced by *Natal Early Iron Age*, to embrace the Ntshekane material as well.

The faunal remains show that domestic stock—cattle, sheep and possibly goats—supplied the bulk of the meat diet. Hunting was also of some importance, for a considerable range of antelope and other wild animals were taken. Domestic dogs were probably present.

INTRODUCTION

The area around Muden is one of the richest in Natal for archaeological remains; however, Early Iron Age material has not previously been reported. The Ntshekane site has been known for a number of years from the occurrence of Middle Stone Age material exposed by erosion (Farnden 1968; Cookson: correspondence in files of the Archaeological Survey). It is just north of the Ntshekane stream about 2 km above its confluence with the Mooi River, near the village of Muden (fig. 3). The site falls mainly on the farm Nietgedocht but extends across the boundary on to Geluk Stadt. The co-ordinates are South 28°57′35″ East 30°24′30″ and it is situated at around 830 metres (2 725 feet) above sea-level.

The natural stratigraphy on the site is typical of the area; the local rocks consisting of Karoo sediments and intrusive volcanics are overlain by a pediment of unconsolidated sediment to a maximum observed depth of about 4 m. The air photograph (fig. 1) shows an area of dendritic gulley-erosion cutting into the pediment and draining to the Ntshekane stream in the foreground. The boundary fence between Nietgedocht and Geluk Stadt cuts diagonally across the picture. At the beginning of this century the pediment was apparently a continuous belt of arable land forming an even land surface sloping gently towards the Ntshekane. Erosion during this century and particularly during the 1930s produced the dendritic gulley system, but the uneroded portions of the pediment on either side are still being cultivated, as can be seen on fig. 1.

The material of the pediment is mainly loam and clay with calcareous nodules. It is derived from the weathering of the dolerite sill immediately above the site to the north, while neighbouring Karoo sediments of the Ecca Series have probably also contributed. This deposition took place during Upper Pleistocene times, judging by the wealth of Middle Stone Age material it contains (Farnden 1968) and the presence of a few mammalian fossils including *Equus zebra* and *Hippopotamus* sp.

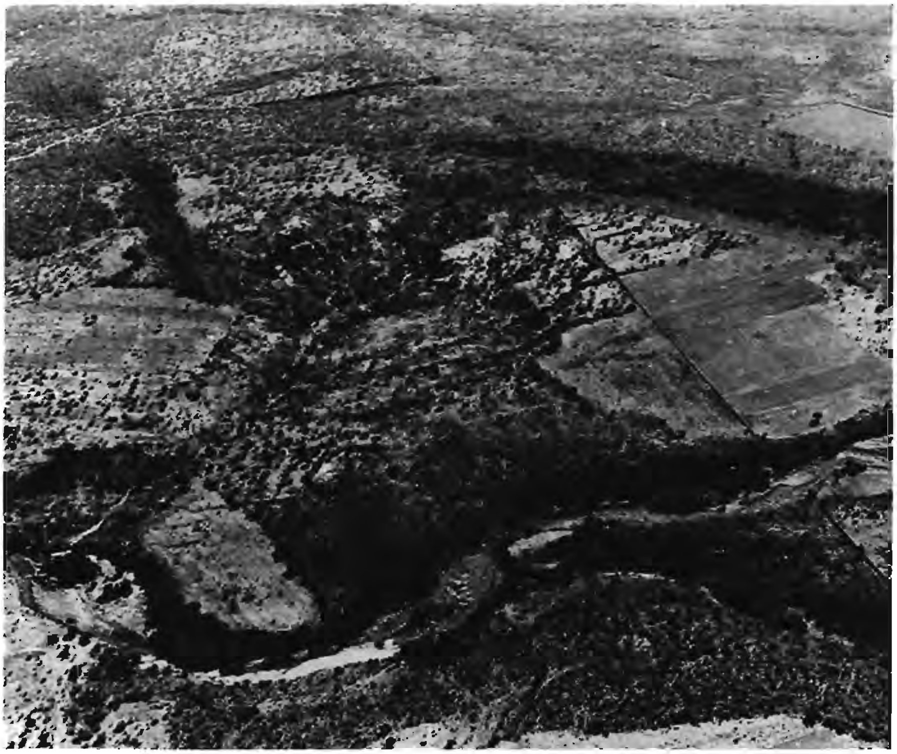


Fig. 1. Oblique air photograph of the site and its setting from the south-west, Ntshekane stream in the foreground.

kindly identified by D. A. Hooijer. The occurrence of Late Stone Age material on the present surface suggests that deposition may have continued into recent times, but this is uncertain.

The soil of the pediment is a reddish-brown calcareous soil of the Sunvalley–Ferry–Weenen association of series (Van der Eyk *et al.* 1969). It is potentially productive, but under the dry climatic conditions, with a mere 70 cm (28 inches) of mean annual rainfall, only the more drought-resistant crops such as sorghum can be grown without irrigation. At the time of the occupation the immediate environment would seem to have provided good arable land for the staple Iron Age crops. The natural vegetation climax would have been Semi-deciduous Bush (*Acacia–Boscia–Olea–Schotia* scrub; Edwards 1967) which probably formed a savannah on deep soils such as this. Overgrazing and erosion have drastically modified the vegetation but a few relic *Boscia albitrunca* can still be seen (the dark, round-crowned trees in figs 1 and 2).

The name Ntshekane has appeared on maps in various forms, including Tygane, Tshekane and iTshekane. Locally, however, it is pronounced with a nasal sound at the beginning, and the spelling *Ntshekane* is correct Zulu (Wright, pers. comm.), therefore this form has been adopted. There are several possible meanings: young children, calves or a small plant of the genus *Schizoglossum* which is used as an

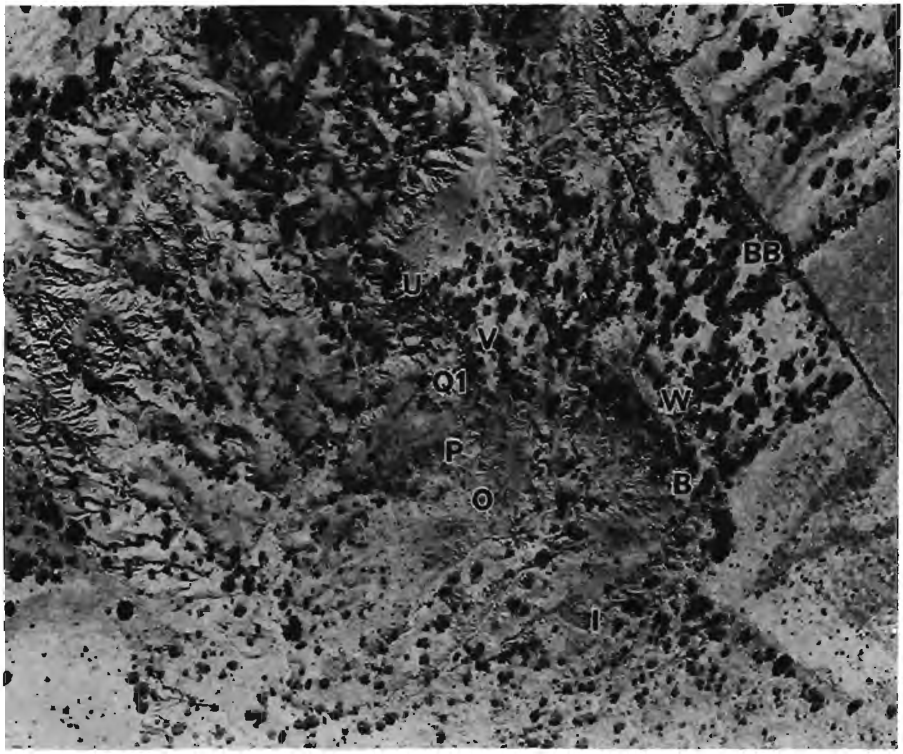


Fig. 2. Almost vertical air photograph of the site itself; compare with fig. 1. Some of the more important features have been indicated.

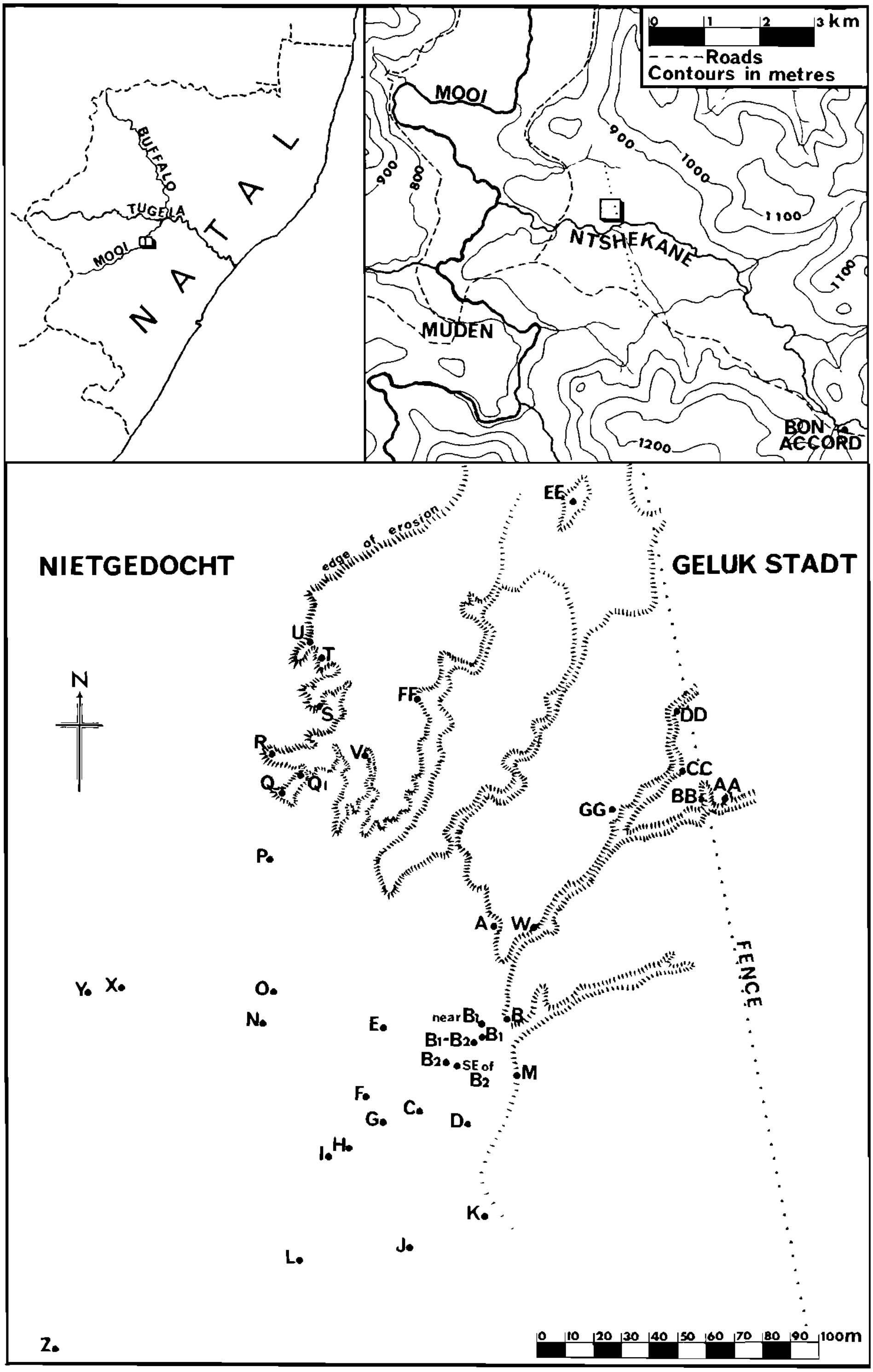
aphrodisiac. There are numerous *Schizoglossum* species in Natal and they are widely distributed; some have edible storage organs (Watt & Breyer-Brandwijk 1932).

Our attention was drawn to the site by R. Evans, who had noticed Iron Age material when visiting it with T. H. G. Farnden. The rich concentrations on the slopes of gulleys indicated that erosion was removing much of the Iron Age remains. We therefore decided to carry out a rescue operation at Easter 1973.

THE FEATURES

The site consists of numerous small concentrations of material, usually not more than one or two metres in extent except where they have been spread down slopes by erosion. The concentrations are made up mainly of grindstones and manuports of dolerite, pottery, bone, *Metachatina* shells and sometimes slag, pieces of daga and ashy or dark coloured patches contrasting with the surrounding reddish-brown soil. All have been exposed by the erosion, and it seems that there would have been little to mark the position of the site on the pre-erosion land surface.

The more distinct concentrations or features were assigned letters for identification and were surveyed tachyometrically (fig. 3). The main erosion features were partly surveyed on the ground and partly drawn in from the air photographs. It is clear from figs 2 and 3 that the features are all on the sides of gullies or on the sheet- and gully-


BUFFALO
TUGELA
MOOI
NATAL
0 1 2 3 km
Roads
Contours in metres
MOOI
900
1000
900
800
1100
1100
NTSHEKANE
MUDEN
1200
BON ACCORD
NIETGEDOCHT
GELUK STADT
edge of erosion
EE
U
T
FF
S
DD
R
V
CC
Q
Q1
AA
BB
GG
P
A
W
FENCE
N
Y
X
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near B1
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B1-B2
B1
B2
SE of B2
M
F
C
G
D
I
H
K
J
L
Z
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100m

Fig. 3.

eroded area towards the south-west. None has been found on the uneroded land surface towards the east, nor from the deepest erosion to the west. The settlement may therefore have extended a little further west, although not as far as the western edge of the erosion, for no indications were found here. We can be confident, however, that more features remain buried under the remaining uneroded areas between the main gullies and probably eastwards across the fence.

As only a short time was available for work in the field most of the features could not be excavated sufficiently to demonstrate their total size and shape. However, sufficient work was done to show that at least four types of feature are present. These consist of (1) deep pits which are the most common, (2) shallow hollows, (3) small features limited essentially to a single buried pot and a few manuports or fragments of cultural material and finally (4) a hut floor. These will be examined in turn.

Several pits were cut through by gullies leaving a portion of the fills exposed on one wall (Features I, V, W, AA, BB & GG; fig. 3). In other cases sheet-erosion had removed the upper portion, revealing a small circular concentration of material on the erosion surface. These are by far the commonest exposures on the site and probably most are pits. However, only the fully excavated examples, Features I, N, O, P and V, were shown definitely to be of this type.

Feature I. This pit was filled with soft ashy soil to a depth of 1,05 m below the recent erosion surface. It would therefore have been about 2 m deep originally judging by the height of uneroded areas near by. It was circular in plan, 1,5 m in diameter across its flat base but narrower above this as it was bell-shaped—the base being undercut about 20 cm all around. This was the only recorded example of this shape, the other pits being narrowest at their bases. There was a group of lower grindstones on the erosion surface; pottery, charcoal and bone were found throughout the fill.

Feature N. Extensive sheet erosion had removed all but the basal 0,4 m of the pit and its surrounding soil. What remained was a patch of greyish-yellow soil about 1 m in diameter, containing some pottery, grindstone fragments, bone and charcoal. After excavation the rounded base of a pit was revealed.

Feature O. As with N, the upper part of this pit had been removed by erosion. The fill, although easier to excavate than the hard surrounding soil, was rather more resistant to erosion, for its surface before excavation formed a slight mound from which cultural material, mainly broken grindstones, had washed down-slope. Excavation revealed a round pit 1 m in diameter and 1 m deep below the erosion surface (fig. 4). The pit would originally have been about 2 m deep, judging by the height of the uneroded land surface to the east. The fill consisted of greyish-yellow ashy material with small lenses of reddish soil throughout. On and just above the erosion surface the pit contained a particularly concentrated layer of cultural material including upper and broken lower grindstones and manuports of dolerite, together with pottery, bone and *Metachatina* shells. Below this level cultural material was not so common, especially from 40 to 80 cm below surface, although typical sherds occurred throughout. Near the base the bones from a complete Blue Duiker (*Cephalophus* cf. *monticola*) skull were found. Charcoal occurred throughout but was most common from the surface to 40 cm. A sample from between 20 and 40 cm was submitted to J. C. Vogel for dating with the result: **Pta 1058**, 1150 ± 45 (ad 800).

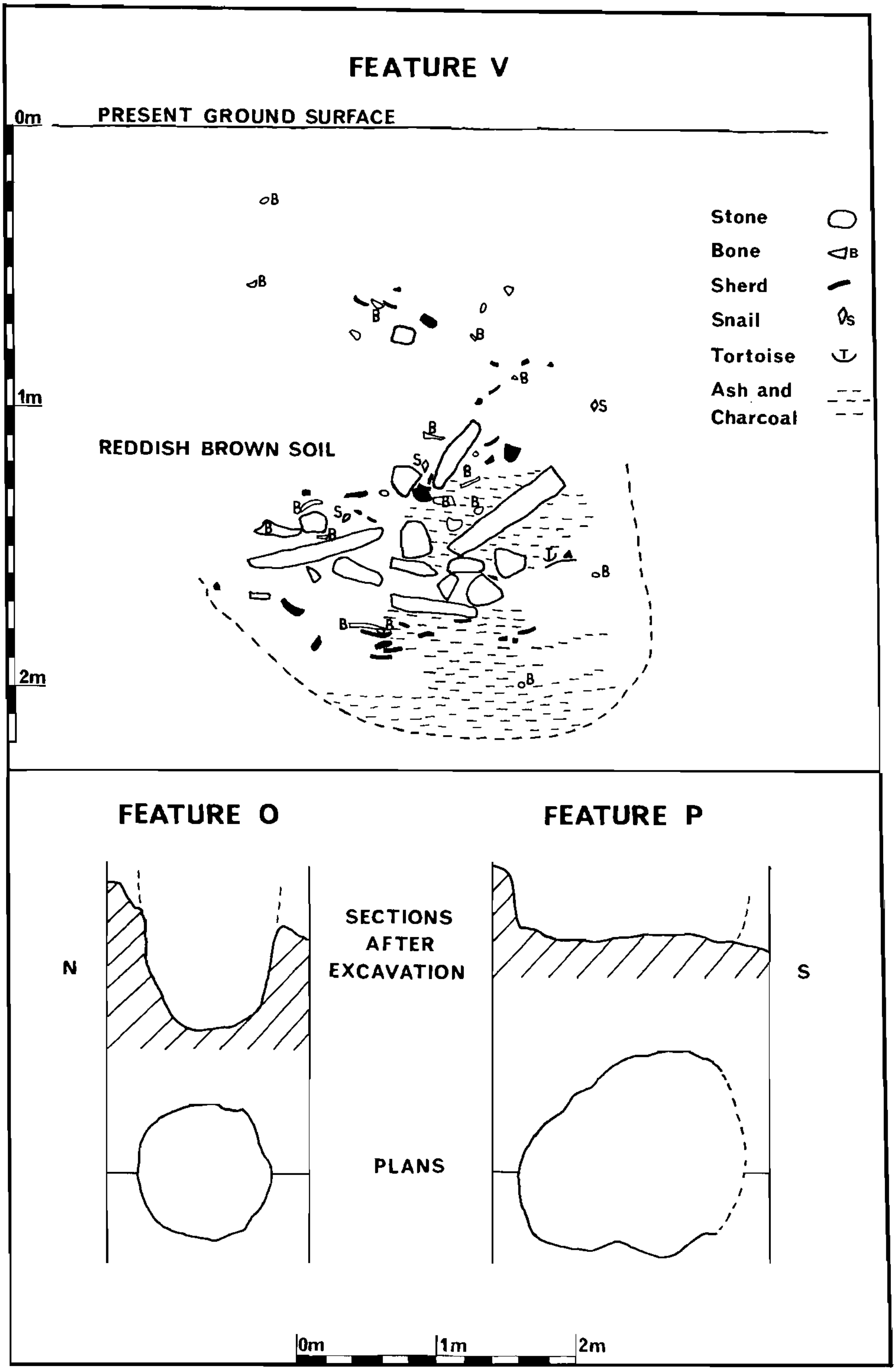

FEATURE V
0m
PRESENT GROUND SURFACE
1m
2m
REDDISH BROWN SOIL
B
S
Stone
Bone
Sherd
Snail
Tortoise
Ash and Charcoal
FEATURE O
FEATURE P
N
S
SECTIONS AFTER EXCAVATION
PLANS
0m
1m
2m

Fig. 4.

Feature P. Here again erosion has removed most of the pit, leaving only the base and up to 40 cm depth on the north side (fig. 4). The south side has been completely eroded away but the limits could be determined by the mass of rocks and grindstones that had been dumped within the pit. The bottom was flat and the shape in plan rather irregular (fig. 4), the diameter varying between 1,3 and 1,8 m. The depth would again have been about 2 m below the surface of the pediment. The deposit was ashy and extremely rich in cultural material. Stones, including upper and broken lower grindstones and manuports, appeared almost to have been stacked three deep in the southern half. A considerable amount of pottery was found, often in large pieces, and many sherds could be reassembled to form the major part of several vessels (figs 11 & 15). The decoration is some of the finest from the site. Clearly this material was mostly dumped in one episode as it is tightly packed together and in the case of the superimposed stones they were resting on one another. Several vertebrae still in an articulated position suggested that material was thrown into the pit in relatively fresh condition and not subsequently disturbed.

Feature V. An erosion gully had cut through this feature, leaving a section preserved on one side. This was cut back and deepened to reveal the complete section through a pit 2,2 m deep, and about 1,5 m in diameter (fig. 4). The upper 1,2 m of the fill consisted of reddish-brown soil indistinguishable from the surrounding soil and it was therefore not possible to establish the exact limits of the pit. However, the presence of scattered pieces of pottery, bone and stone gave a general indication of the position of the upper part of the pit. From 1,2 m down to about 1,8 m the fill became clearly distinguishable from the soil because it contained a much higher proportion of cultural material, especially broken grindstones and stone manuports, as well as pottery, bone, ash and charcoal. At this level there was no apparent stratigraphy. The contents gave the impression of having been tipped into the pit in a single episode. By contrast, from 1,8 m to the base of the pit there was much less stone, although pottery and bone continued. Moreover the deposit consisted of a series of ashy lenses merging into earthy material, which indicates a slower rate of accumulation such as would occur with the regular dumping of ash and debris from domestic hearths and sweepings.

Charcoal collected from between 1,4 and 2,2 m below the surface was submitted to J. C. Vogel for dating with the result: **Pta 1057**, 1100 ± 50 (ad 850). This result agrees closely with that from Feature O where both the deposit and pottery typology were closely similar.

Other deep pits. Several other features were sufficiently exposed to be identified as deep pits, although they were not excavated. Feature AA was partly exposed at the head of a gully and had a depth of at least 1,6 m. It contained pottery, bone, grindstones, ash and charcoal. BB was exposed in complete section but undercut in the vertical side of a gully. It was 1,9 m deep and 1,2 m in diameter towards the top, narrowing gradually with depth and having a rounded bottom. It too contained typical pottery, bone, grindstones and charcoal but was not ashy, the fill being differentiated from the reddish-brown soil by its contents and only a slight colour difference. GG was also cut by a gully and had similar contents down to a depth of about 2 m, with a diameter of about 1 m. W was partly exposed in a gully, indicating a diameter towards the top of about a metre but its depth is not known. The fill was very ashy even near the top and it included several almost complete pots with only their bases missing (fig. 19, 3 & 4). Several of the other features are probably deep pits but none was examined at sufficient depth for this to be ascertained.

Shallow hollows. Three clear examples of shallow hollows were exposed in section by erosion. Feature CC consisted of a very clear lens of ashy material containing much bone, charcoal, *Metachatina* shells and some pottery. It was up to 35 cm thick and about 2 m long, covered by about 40 cm of soil. Some material was collected but the position, high in the wall of a gully, prevented excavation. Feature S was represented by only a small pocket of deposit *in situ* about 50 cm below ground level, but a considerable amount of material, mostly bone and pottery, was collected on the sloping side of the gully immediately below. Feature T consisted of similar material preserved in a knife-edged ridge between two gullies. It originally formed a hollow perhaps only 30–40 cm below the ground surface and about 2 m across with a gently rounded bottom similar to CC.

Several patches of material exposed on sheet-eroded surfaces appeared on excavation to be only a few centimetres deep. Some of these, notably G, Q1 and some of the features near B1 and B2, seem to have been shallow hollows but others may have been the upper portions of pits.

Small features. The best example of this type is the Feature near B1 which consisted of a single pot, its base missing (fig. 5, 1), placed on its side among several dolerite manuports and grindstone fragments. The material was presumably dumped into a small pit about 0,5 m in diameter and less than 1 m deep. Feature EE likewise included a single, almost complete pot, buried about 0,5 m deep but with some other sherds and debris. Feature F consisted of sherds, mostly from a single pot, together with four manuports, a grindstone and some slag, in an area less than a metre in diameter. In each case the disorderly arrangement suggests dumping rather than any more elaborate action.

Hut floor. Feature U on a narrow spur between two deep gullies is a flat earthen floor hardened and discoloured by fire. Its dimensions are not known but it extends for at least 1,5 m along the spur. On it was a sherd with typical decoration as well as pieces of burnt daga. The most interesting of these has cylindrical pole impressions in two series at right angles to each other but in the same plane (fig. 21, 13). Three poles of about 2,5 cm diameter were set about 2 cm apart with a thinner stick of 1 cm diameter running across them. The feature would therefore seem to have been a hut with pole and daga walls.

THE POTTERY

Because it is derived mainly from buried features the pottery is in relatively good condition, not excessively fragmented and even where broken often permitting a considerable amount of reconstruction. It has therefore been possible to base this description on a vessel-by-vessel rather than a sherd-by-sherd analysis. Only large sherds and nearly complete vessels have been included where virtually all the attributes included in the analysis could be obtained. A total of 156 vessels are included and care was taken that none should be represented more than once. However, many smaller sherds including decorated examples were excluded, even though some

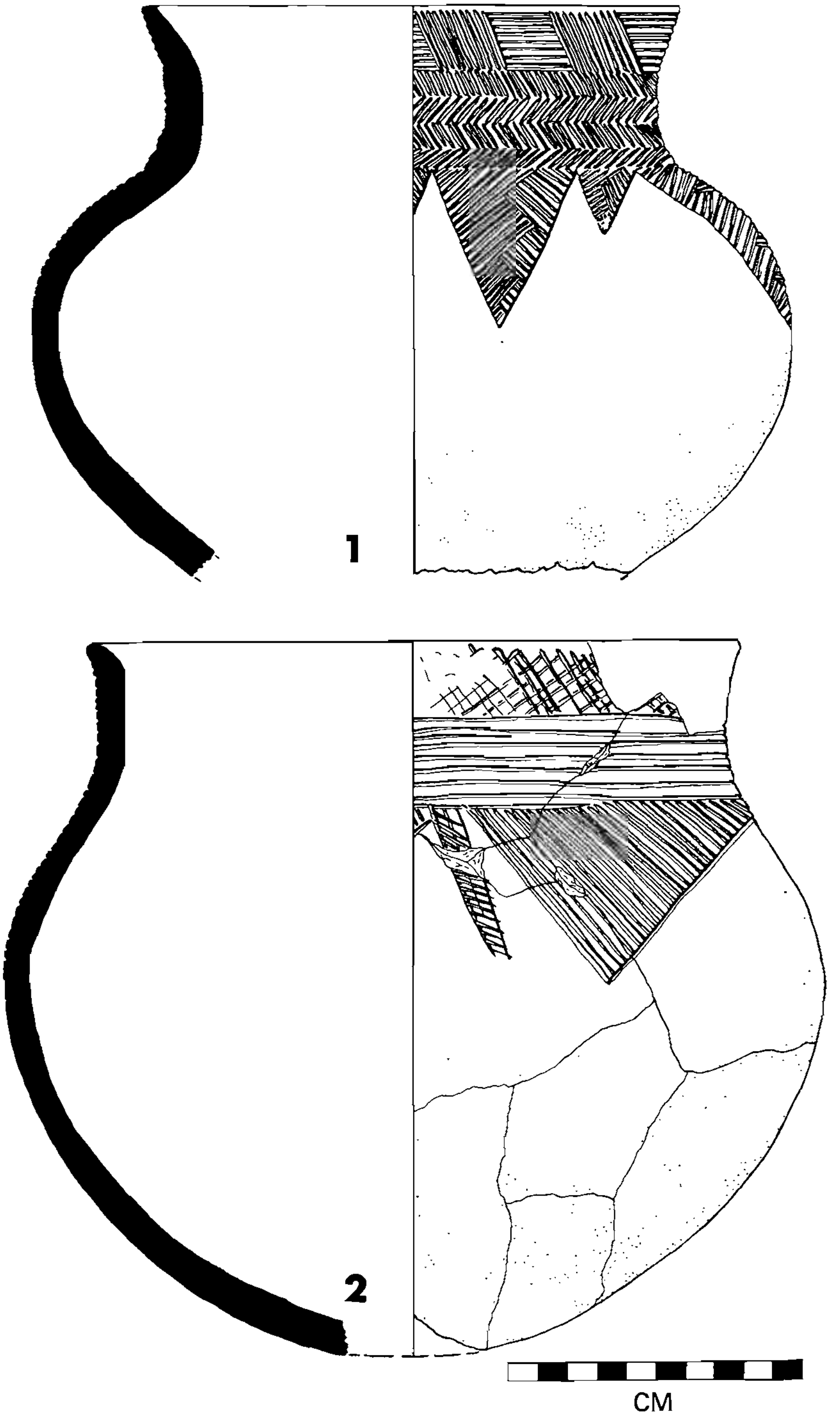


Fig. 5. Everted neck vessels with boldly grooved decoration.

would have represented additional vessels. A few sherds which show exceptional features are illustrated (fig. 20) but were not included within the analysis because they were too incomplete or because they were unassociated surface finds.

The description which follows is fairly detailed since the sample is the first excavated from the Early Iron Age in Natal. There is clearly a close resemblance between it and Schofield's (1935 & 1937) NC3 pottery. However, there are also some important differences between the bulk of the Ntshekane material and most of that described by Schofield. The relationship is brought out in the analysis and will be discussed below. The description is based on a list of 38 characteristics whose incidences and interrelationships are shown in the matrix diagram (Table 1), as well as a more general discussion.

Characteristics used in the analysis

Shape

1 *Inward sloping neck* (Lawton 1967), the neck being narrowest at the lip, the profile is usually straight or slightly concave (fig. 8).
2 *Everted neck*, the neck being narrowest around its middle and wide at lip and body junction, the profile being markedly concave (fig. 5).
3 *Upright neck*, the neck being narrowest towards the lip, its lower part is inward sloping but the upper part is nearly vertical, profile slightly concave (fig. 19, 3).
4 *Other necks* (none recorded).
5 *Neck–body junction*, the junction being indicated by a horizontal groove, change in wall thickness or change in texture on the inside surface (fig. 7, 1).
6 *Open-mouthed bowl* (Lawton 1967).
7 *Incurved bowl* (ibid.).
8 *Lip profile rounded.*
9 *Lip profile flattened*, there being only one flattened plane. No multiple bevels were found in the assemblage.
10 *Lip profile grooved*, there being a single slight groove making the profile of the lip concave. Fluting and multiple grooves on lips are absent.
11 *Other lip profile.*
12 *Internal lip emphasis*, a thickening of the vessel wall at the lip protruding inwards.
13 *External lip emphasis*, as above but protruding outwards (fig. 8).

Surface treatment

14 *Matt.*
15 *Burnished*, a shiny surface without the addition of colouring.
16 *Ochre*, burnished with red ochre added.
17 *Graphite*, burnished with graphite.
18 *Black*, burnished with black colouring added.
19 *Fire blackened*, discoloured and soot-encrusted from use on a fire.
20 *Undecorated*, the presence of a single groove at the body–neck junction alone was not regarded as decoration.

TABLE 1

MATRIX OF POTTERY CHARACTERISTICS

The column and row numbers refer to the list of characteristics.
The number at the end of each row is the total for each characteristic.

	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
1	95																																				
2		8																																			
3			4																																		
5	59	8	4	71																																	
6					41																																
7						7																															
8	23	3	4	21	25	3	58																														
9	24	1		11	10	2		37																													
10	4			2	3				7																												
11	3	2		4	2	1				8																											
12					2			2		1	3																										
13	32	2		19	10	1	21	11	5	2		44																									
14	52	8	2	43	36	5	35	28	5	6	3	29	103																								
15	27		1	18	4	1	13	5	2	2		10	1	33																							
16	6			5	1		3	1				3		1	7																						
17	8		1	5			3	2				1			1	9																					
18	8			6		1	1	2	1			3		1	1	1	9																				
19	10		1	10	2	1	8	2	1			4	9	3		1	1	14																			
20	13		1	5	40	7	36	15	4	3	2	15	49	9	2		2	4	60																		
21	27	1	2	23			4	8	2			7	13	8	2	3	5	4		29																	
22	14	3		13			4	4		1		2	8	7	1	2				1	17																
23	6		1	5			1	2				1	6				1	1		1		7															
24	3	1	3	6			3	1				1	5			1		1		3	1	2	7														
25	13			9			5			1		5	7	4	1	1		2						13													
26		3		3			1			1			3							1					3												
27	21	3		17	1		7	6	1	1	1	9	21	3		1		3				2			2	25											
28	1	1		1						1		2	2														2										
29		4		4			2	1		1		2	4								2					1	1	4									
30		4		4			2			1			4							1	1				3	2			4								
31		3		3			2			1		1	3								1				1	1	1	3		3							
32	6			5			2	1				1	1	2	2	2		1		2	2	1		2							6						
33	2			2									1			1	1			1		1				1						2					
34	1						1									1					1										1		1				
35	8			7			1	1		2		3	4	3	3	1				1	4					3					1		1	8			
36	15			8			3	4		1		6	4	6	2	2	2	4		6	2					6								3	15		
37	2			2			1					1		1		1	1	1		1						1						1			1	2	
38	2			2								2		1	2		1				1													1	1		2

Decoration

21 *Bands of opposed hatching without intervening grooves*, two or more horizontal bands consisting of oblique hatching where the direction of the hatching alternates from band to band. Two such bands form a herringbone pattern (fig. 8, 1 & 3).

22 *Bands of opposed hatching with intervening grooves*, as above but with a horizontal groove between bands (fig. 11, 1 & 3).

23 *Band or bands of hatching, not opposed*, one or more bands of oblique hatching in the same direction (fig. 19, 4).

24 *Cord effect*, where one or more bands of hatching is thickened in profile to produce a rounded section protruding from the vessel wall (fig. 19, 3 & 4).

25 *Band or bands of even cross-hatching*, one or more horizontal bands of cross-hatching where the two series of lines are approximately equally spaced (fig. 10, 1 & 3).

26 *Band or bands of uneven cross-hatching*, as above but where one series of lines is more than twice the distance apart than the other (fig. 6, 2).

27 *Band of horizontal grooves* (fig. 8, 4).

28 *Band of interlocking triangles*, a horizontal band consisting of hatched triangles with their apices pointing alternately up and down (fig. 6, 3).

29 *Band of interlocking parallelograms*, a horizontal band of parallelograms with alternately horizontal and oblique hatching (fig. 6, 1 & 3).

30 *Pendant triangles* filled with hatching (fig. 5, 1 & 2).

31 *Pendant panels* filled with hatching (fig. 6, 3).

32 *Row or rows of individual impressions* (fig. 20, 3).

33 *Applied decoration*, including bands, bosses and pellets (fig. 20, 5 & 6).

34 *Lip decoration*, including notching or impressions (fig. 16, 5).

35 *Interruption by vertical grooves*, groups of vertical grooves cutting across horizontal bands of decoration (fig. 17, 1).

36 *Interruption by oblique grooves*, as above but with oblique grooves (fig. 8, 3).

37 *Interruption by vertical rows of impressions*, as above but with vertical rows of impressions (fig. 11, 2).

38 *Interruption by oblique rows of impressions*, as above but with oblique rows (fig. 18, 4).

Description

The sample can be subdivided under two main headings: necked vessels which make up 69% and bowls which make up 31%. Necks are a prominent feature of the pottery not only because they are common but also because of their characteristic shapes and size. At the point where neck meets body there are usually clear signs of the junction. Some vessels have a well-defined point of inflection (Lawton 1967) and most have a slight groove which frequently delineates the bottom of the decoration. There is often a change in wall thickness and, on the inside surface, a change in texture as well as signs that the clay of the neck has been smeared down over that of the body. These characteristics indicate that the potters regarded the neck as being rather distinct from the body and it seems likelv that the neck was sometimes added after the body had been made.

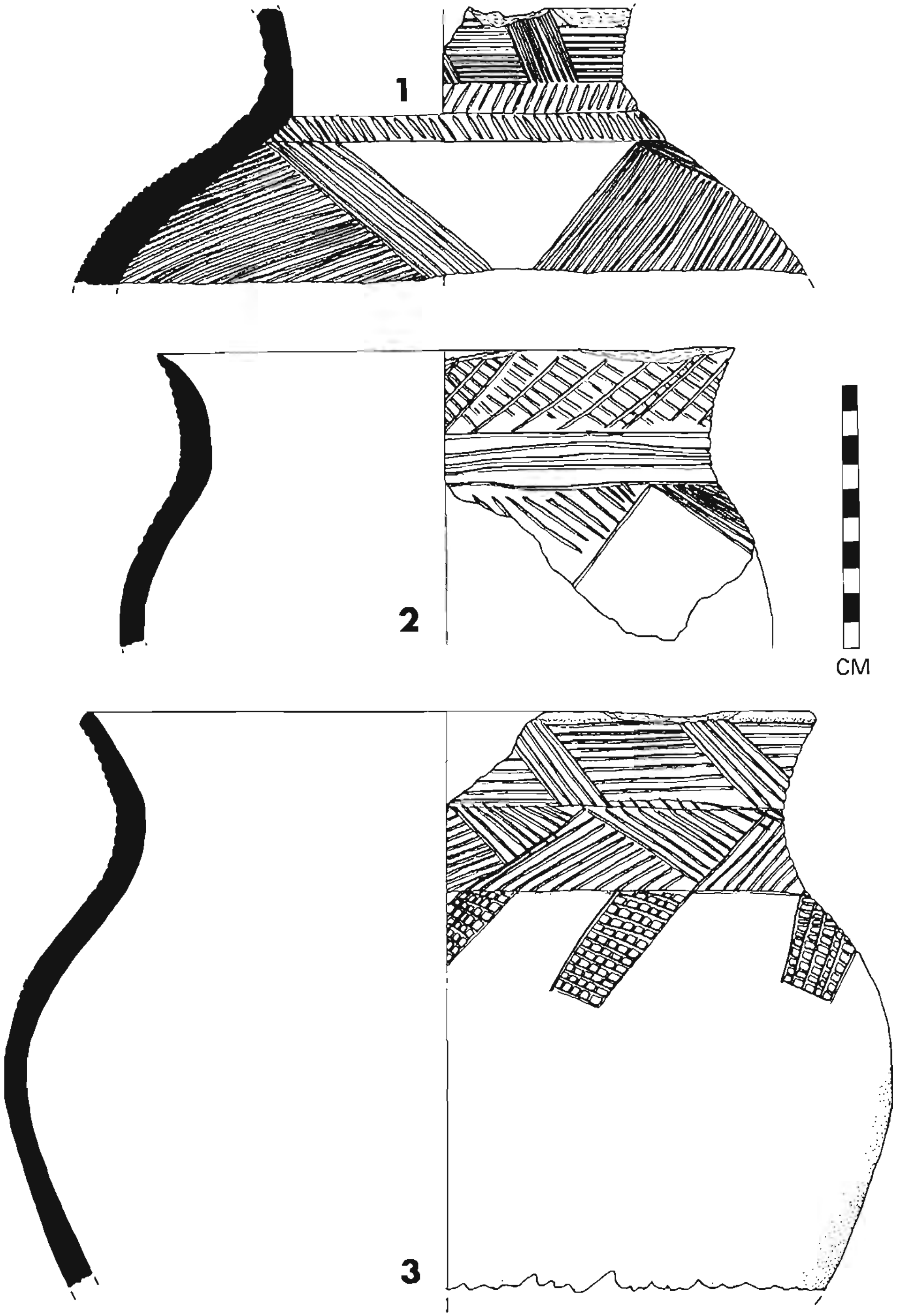


Fig. 6. Everted necked vessels with boldly grooved decoration, from B.

Necks are fairly tall and they are an important aesthetic element of the vessels. The great majority (90%) are inward sloping (fig. 12) although there is considerable variety within this classification. The angle of slope varies and the neck profile is usually straight or slightly concave, rarely convex (fig. 20, 2). The everted necks are more markedly concave and not as tall although still prominent (fig. 13). Upright necks are rare and they are not completely vertical since their lower portions slope inwards (fig. 14). They are relatively tall and concave in profile. The bodies of these vessels are spherical or sub-spherical in shape. Their bases, like virtually all of the assemblage, are rounded. Only one hollow base (fig. 9, 5) was found and there were no flat bases. A surface find of what appears to have been a foot ring is not considered to be sufficient evidence of this feature.

The bowls show a greater variety of shapes than the necked vessels, varying from a very shallow, open example (fig. 7, 6) to a deeper example with sharply incurved lip (fig. 9, 2) and two vessels which are almost as deep as they are wide at the lip (fig. 9, 3 & 4). However, only seven are incurved (Lawton 1967), the majority (41) are open-mouthed and this group shows much greater standardization. They are shallow and wide-mouthed to hemispherical, their widths being twice to thrice their depths (e.g. fig, 7, 3 & 4; fig. 16, 1–4). In some cases the lip flares outward (fig. 7, 3; fig. 16, 4).

In terms of size the necked vessels and bowls are much the same. The absolute range of diameters, from 8 to 40 cm, is identical, while the mean and standard deviation for the bowls falls between the lip and body measurements for the necked vessels as is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Diameters in cm	*Minimum*	*Standard Deviation*	*Mean*	*Standard Deviation*	*Maximum*
Bowl lips	8	14,7	22,3	30,0	40
Necked vessel lips	8	14,3	19,5	24,7	36
Necked vessel bodies	8	16,7	24,8	32,9	40

The fabric although variable tends to be rather coarse with grit tempering, including some surprisingly large pieces up to 1,35 cm. However, this has not significantly affected the appearance of the finished ware which is hard-fired and has predominantly a smooth matt surface. Most of the pottery is around 1 cm thick and reddish-brown to dark grey in colour.

One-third of the vessels, mainly those with necks, have burnished surfaces. In most cases no colouring matter was added but there are a few cases of red ochre, graphite and black burnishes and sometimes these are combined (Table 1). A few vessels have been blackened from use on a fire—the proportions for necked vessels and bowls being similar.

Decoration is found on a high proportion of vessels (62%) but only in one instance on a bowl (fig. 9, 2). This is the most distinguishing feature of the assemblage. The decoration mostly takes the form of continuous bands around the neck but it is sometimes pendant on to the body as well. The great majority is made up of parallel grooves or hatching incised into fairly wet clay. The width, depth and cross-section of grooving varies within well-defined limits. The finer work, for example from Feature P, may well have been done with a multiple pointed object such as a fine comb. Rows of individual impressions and applied decoration occur relatively

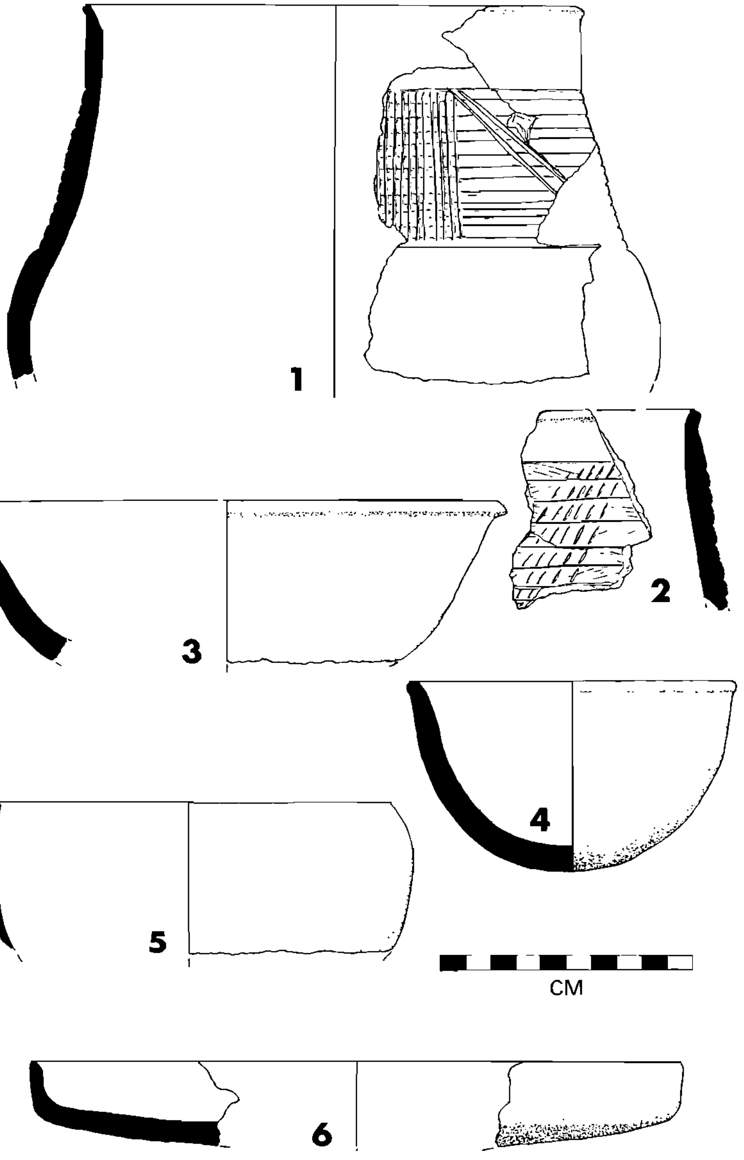


Fig. 7. Various vessels.

rarely (fig. 20, 5 & 6) and even then are usually a secondary motif used along the body/neck junction or as an interruption, in combination with a grooved motif. Only one vessel had impressed decoration on its lip (fig. 16, 5). Other rare decorative motifs are illustrated in fig. 18, 8 and fig. 20.

From a close examination of the matrix (Table 1) it is clear that the sample is not homogenous. This is best demonstrated by the three types of neck, each of which is associated with a particular set of characteristics. Moreover, the vessels with the

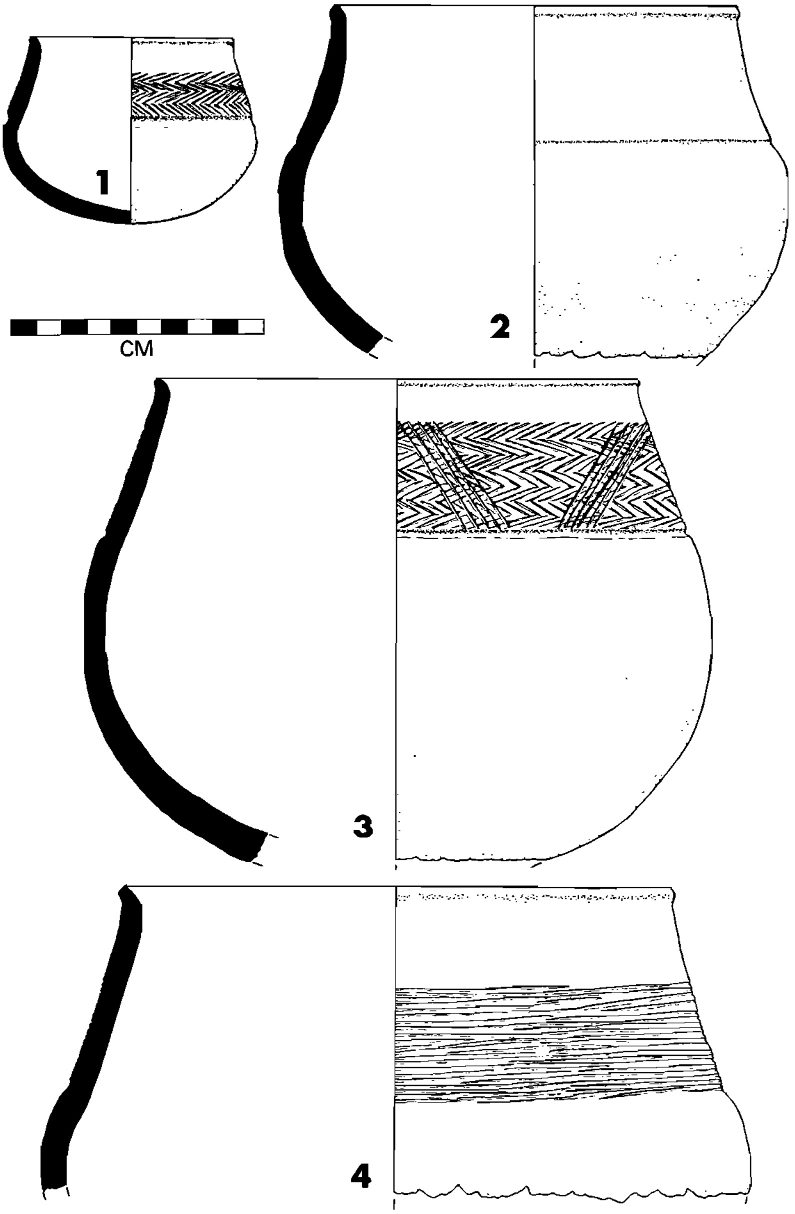


Fig. 8. Typical vessels with inward sloping necks, from I.

different types of neck are derived from different pits; those with upright necks are all from Features N and W, while those with everted necks are all from the features around B. The chronological implications will be discussed later, but first we need to examine the combinations of characteristics associated with each.

Vessels with inward sloping necks greatly predominate in the assemblage. Examples

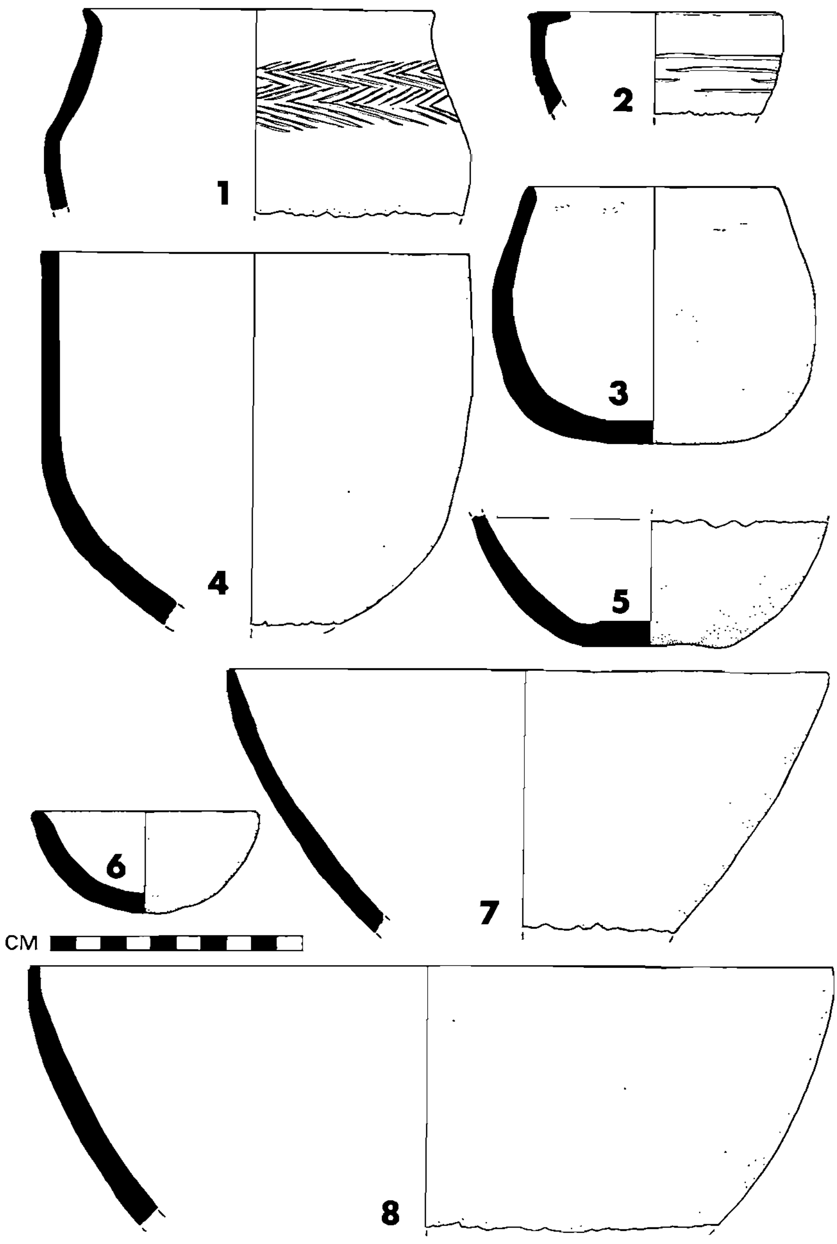


Fig. 9. Various vessels and a hollow base, from I.

are included in the analysis from Features D, F, G, I, O, P, Q, V, AA, EE and FF, and they provide 95 out of the total 107 necked vessels. External lip emphasis is common and there is a relatively high incidence of the various burnishes as well as fire blackening. Most are decorated, the preferred motifs being numbers 21, 22, 23, 25, 27 and to a lesser extent 32, 33 and 34. Of these numbers 25, 33 and 34 are exclusive

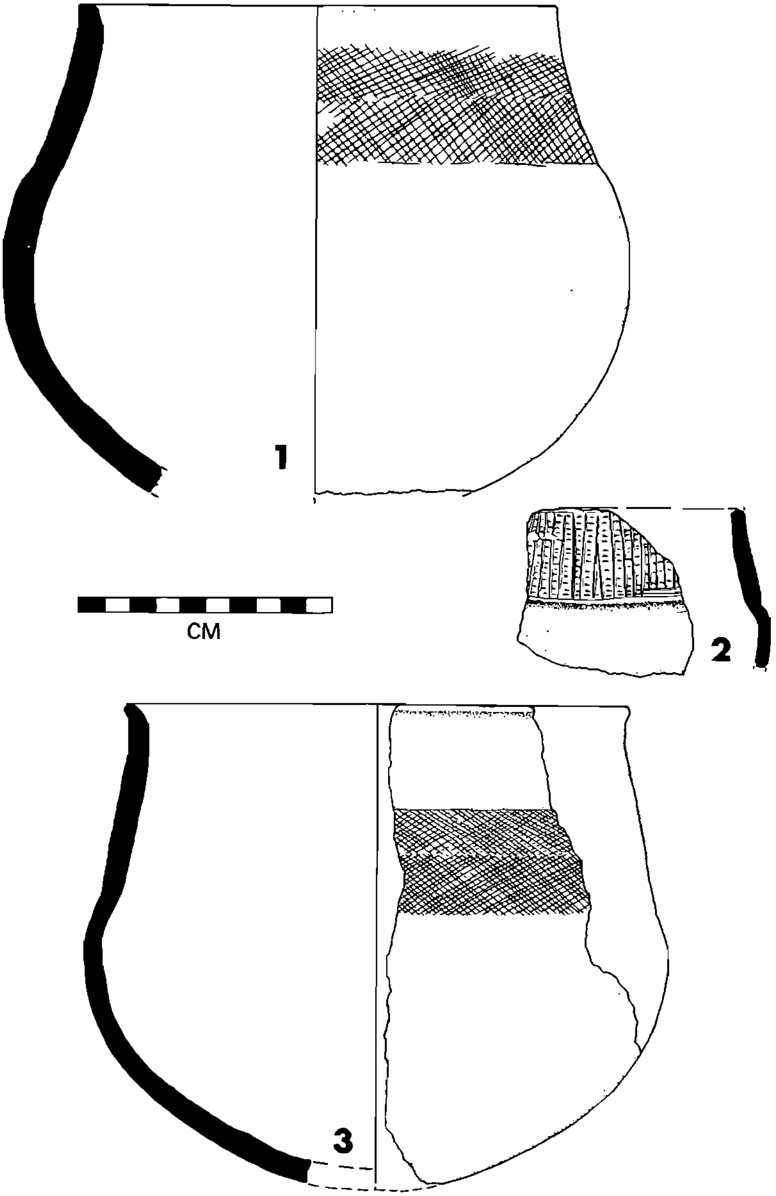


Fig. 10. Cross-hatched decoration on typical inward sloping necked vessels.

to this group of vessels. The grooving and hatching tends to be finer although there is variation, as shown particularly well in fig. 15. The better vessels of this type are the most refined of the assemblage (e.g. figs 10, 11 & 15).

Another decorative feature exclusive to the inward sloping necks is the occurrence of vertical or oblique lines cutting across horizontal bands of decoration—a characteristic to which we have given the name 'interruption'. The lines may consist of

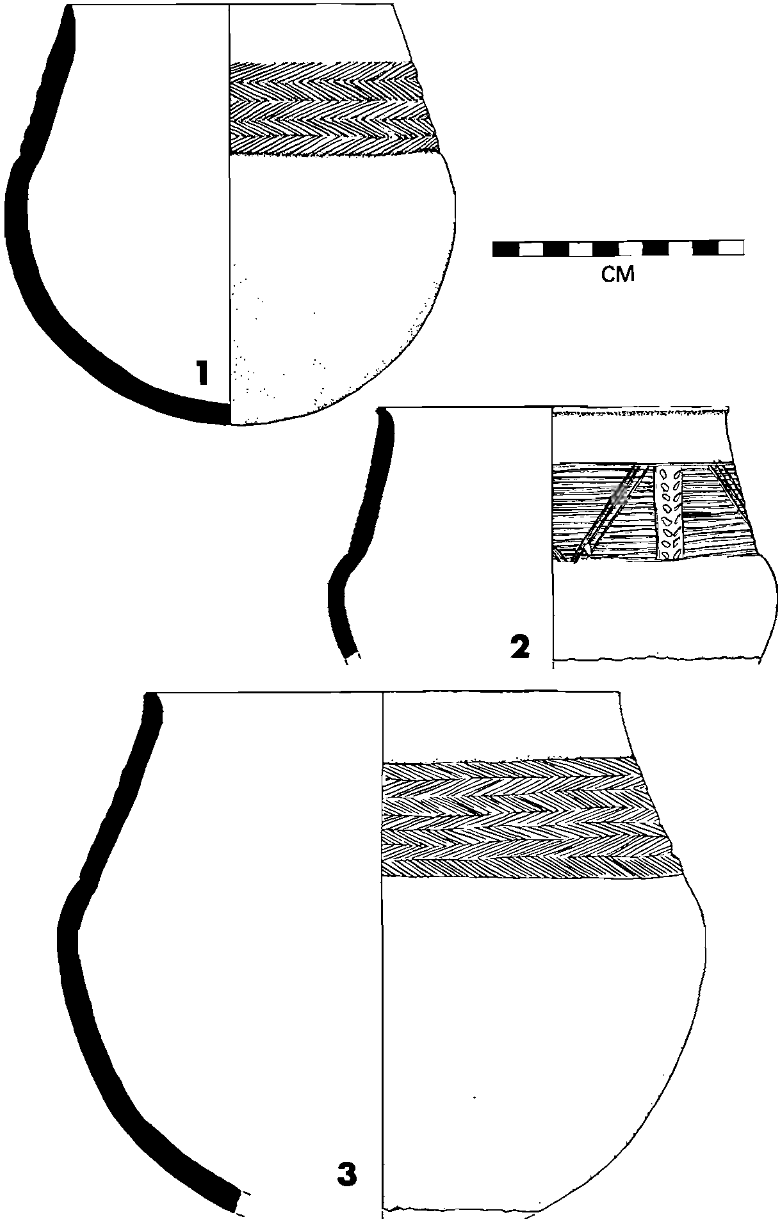
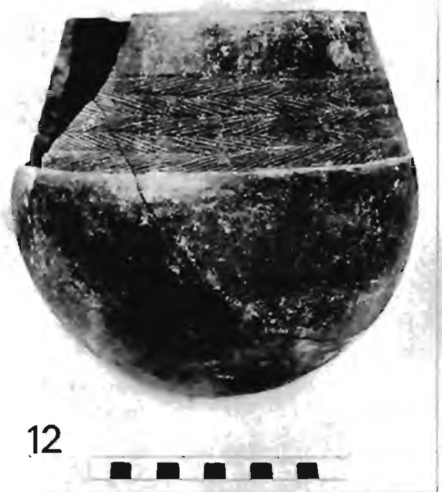


Fig. 11. Vessels with inward sloping necks and fine decoration from P.

grooves or rows of individual impressions, and sometimes the two are combined (fig. 11, 2; fig. 20, 2). The interruptions consist of one or several parallel lines placed at intervals around the neck.

Decoration is usually confined to the lower two-thirds of the inward sloping necks, but sometimes occurs higher up as well, especially among the vessels from Feature V



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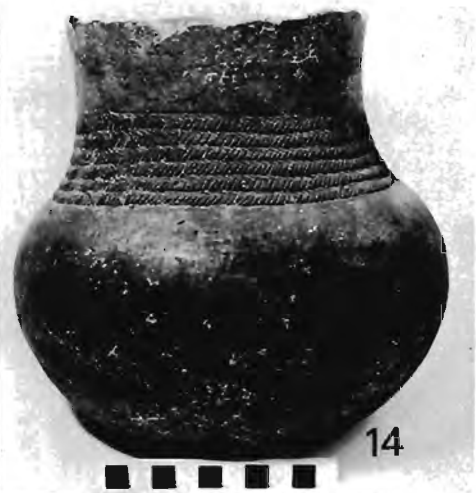

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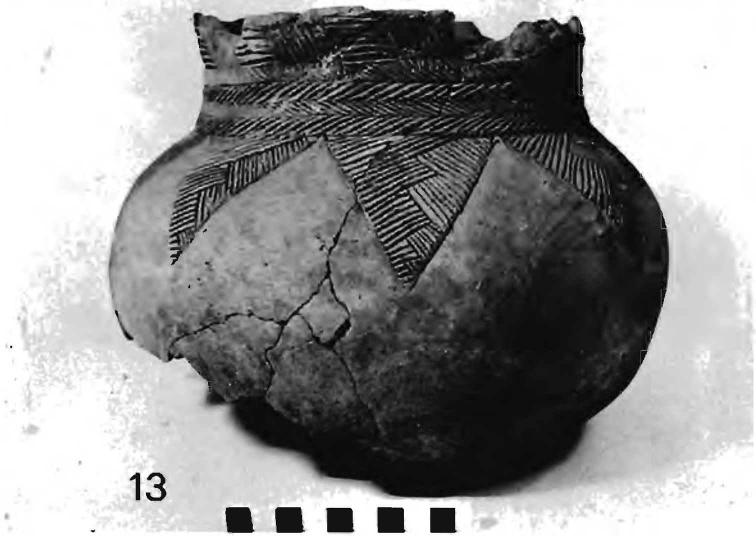

13

Fig. 12. Finely decorated vessel with inward sloping neck. Feature P (fig. 9, 1).

Fig. 13. Typical vessel with everted neck and three decorative motifs. Note the bold hatching compared with fig. 12. Feature near B1 (fig. 3, 1).

Fig. 14. Vessel with upright neck and slight corded effect on the hatched bands. Graphite burnish. Feature W (fig. 14, 3).

(The scales of figures 5–21 are in centimetres)

(fig. 18). It does not occur on the bodies.

There are only eight vessels with everted necks but despite the small sample they show a sufficiently distinct clustering of characteristics to set them apart as a group. Furthermore all of them come from the features immediately around B. They are orange-brown in colour and have matt surfaces. Their decoration, while related to that of the vessels with inward sloping necks, is distinct. Motifs 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 are preferred, and of these 26, 29, 30 and 31 are exclusive to the group (figs 5 & 6). These include the bands of interlocking triangles and parallelograms (fig. 5, 1; fig. 6, 1 & 3) as well as the pendant triangles and pendant panels which occur on all the illustrated examples and represent the only type of body decoration in the assemblage. Grooving is particularly bold and two or more motifs are usually found on each vessel.

Interruptions were not found on this group; however, the uneven cross-hatching (fig. 6, 2), which is exclusive to the group, could have been the prototype from which interruptions developed.

The four vessels with upright necks seem to be separate from those with inward sloping necks. However, they are less distinct than the everted necks and could be an idiosyncratic variation, perhaps the work of a single potter, rather than a definite entity on their own. Three are from Feature W and one is from Feature N (fig. 19, 3 & 4). The three decorated examples have oblique hatching on thickened bands producing a cord-like effect. The evidence is insufficient to set them apart from the bulk of the assemblage.

Examples of each of the three types of necked vessels are shown in figs 12–14. The finer vessels of the assemblage demonstrate very proficient craftmanship as well as considerable aesthetic appeal. This suggests a greater degree of specialization among potters than is usual among Iron Age societies in southern Africa.

SMALL FINDS

A well-made, small cattle figurine (fig. 21, 1) is the only one of its type from the site. Although it is a surface find it is almost certainly associated with the pottery, which it resembles in texture and firing. It has a well-defined hump on the back of its neck and thick horns both of which have broken off. The thick, rather horizontal horns would be in accord with the large and fairly straight cattle horn core from Feature B. A few fragments which probably come from other figurines were also found (fig. 21, 2).

There are few bone tools in the assemblage, the most interesting being a series of points. The best finished of these (fig. 21, 8) seems to be a typical Late Stone Age arrow-head, its tip broken off. Another more fragmentary point (fig. 21, 7) was probably of the same type while a thicker piece tapering to a blunt point at both ends may have been a link shaft (fig. 21, 10). These points suggest contact or cultural exchange with Late Stone Age people who would certainly have been inhabiting the area before the arrival of the Iron Age population. A heavy cylindrical bone 'peg' from Feature V is of unknown function.

A few bone fragments show considerable signs of utilization such as the gouge-like piece with heavily chipped end (fig. 21, 11) and the flat piece with its end rounded and polished from scraping (12).

Numerous disc-shaped beads were made from large shells of the land snail *Metachatina kraussi* (fig. 21, 3, 5 & 6). They vary in diameter from 5,5 to 15 mm, most being about 7 to 9 mm. Some are well finished but others are crude. Many are too worn or weathered for certain identification, but apart from two small examples which might be ostrich egg-shell they all seem to be made from *Metachatina*. Small pieces of unworked ostrich egg-shell were recovered from Feature V, while numerous

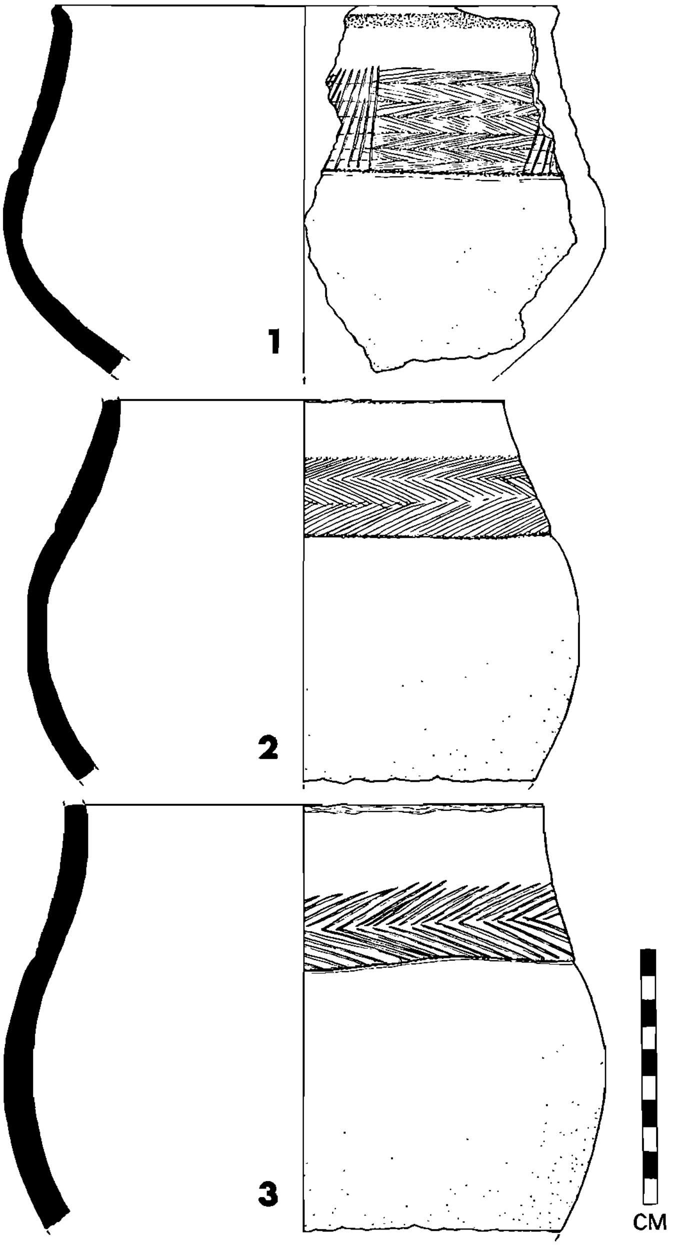

Fig. 15. Typical vessels with inward sloping necks and bands of opposed hatching. From P.

immature shells of *Metachatina* cf. *kraussi* occurred throughout the site. A single very corroded bead, apparently a glass cane, came from Feature W; this is the only import associated with the assemblage.

The piece of burnt daga with pole impressions from Feature U has already been mentioned. Several pieces from other features showed thatch impressions, although

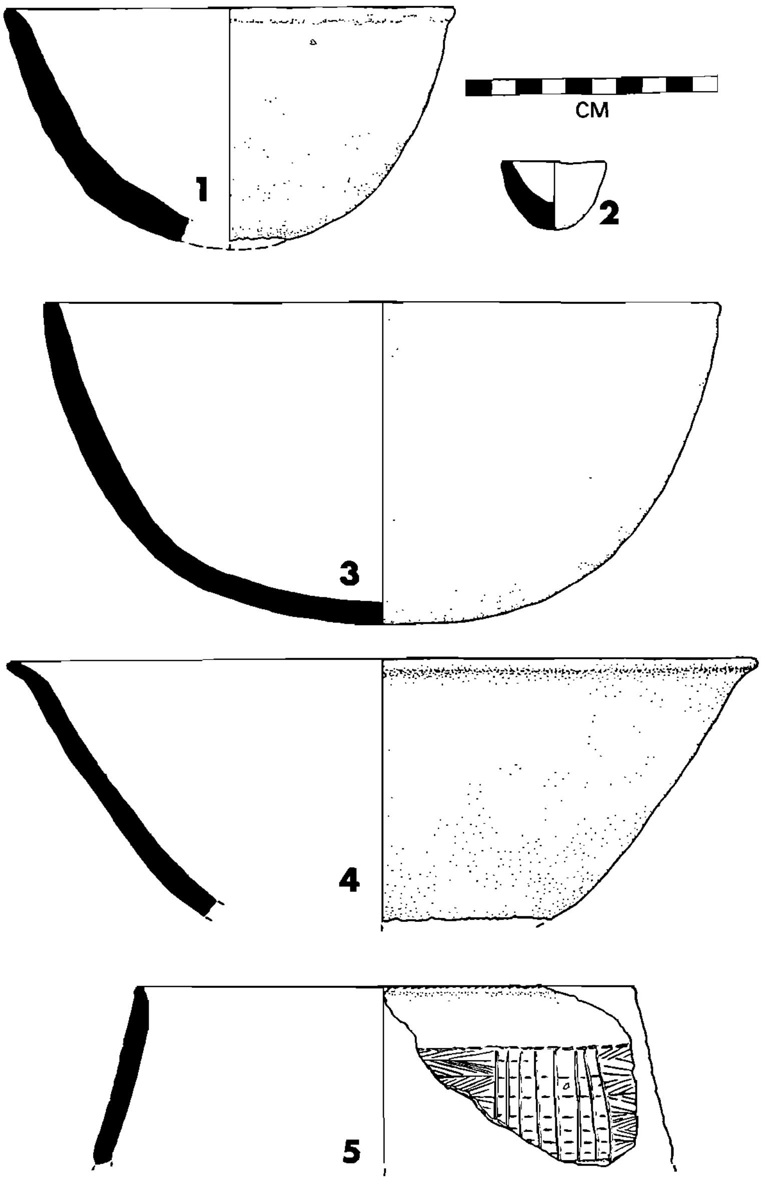

Fig. 16. Typical bowls, from P, and an inward sloping neck, from Q1.

the individual pieces of grass must have been haphazardly orientated rather than being parallel.

Stone implements of both Middle and Late Stone Age typology are fairly generally scattered about the site. Although none of the latter can be shown to be directly associated with Iron Age material, by the same token there is no proof that they are of different age.

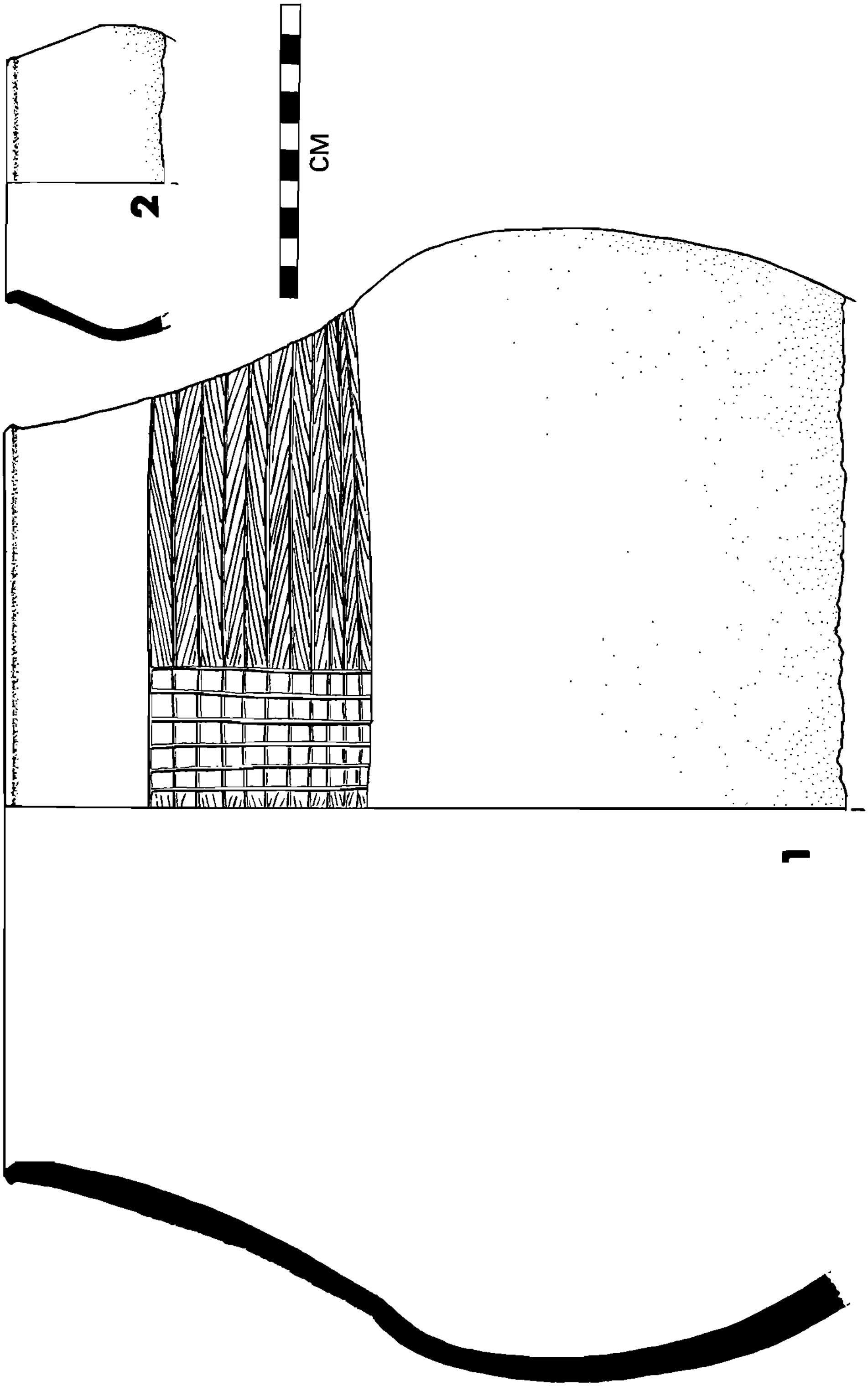

Fig. 17. Vessels from Q1 including the largest found.

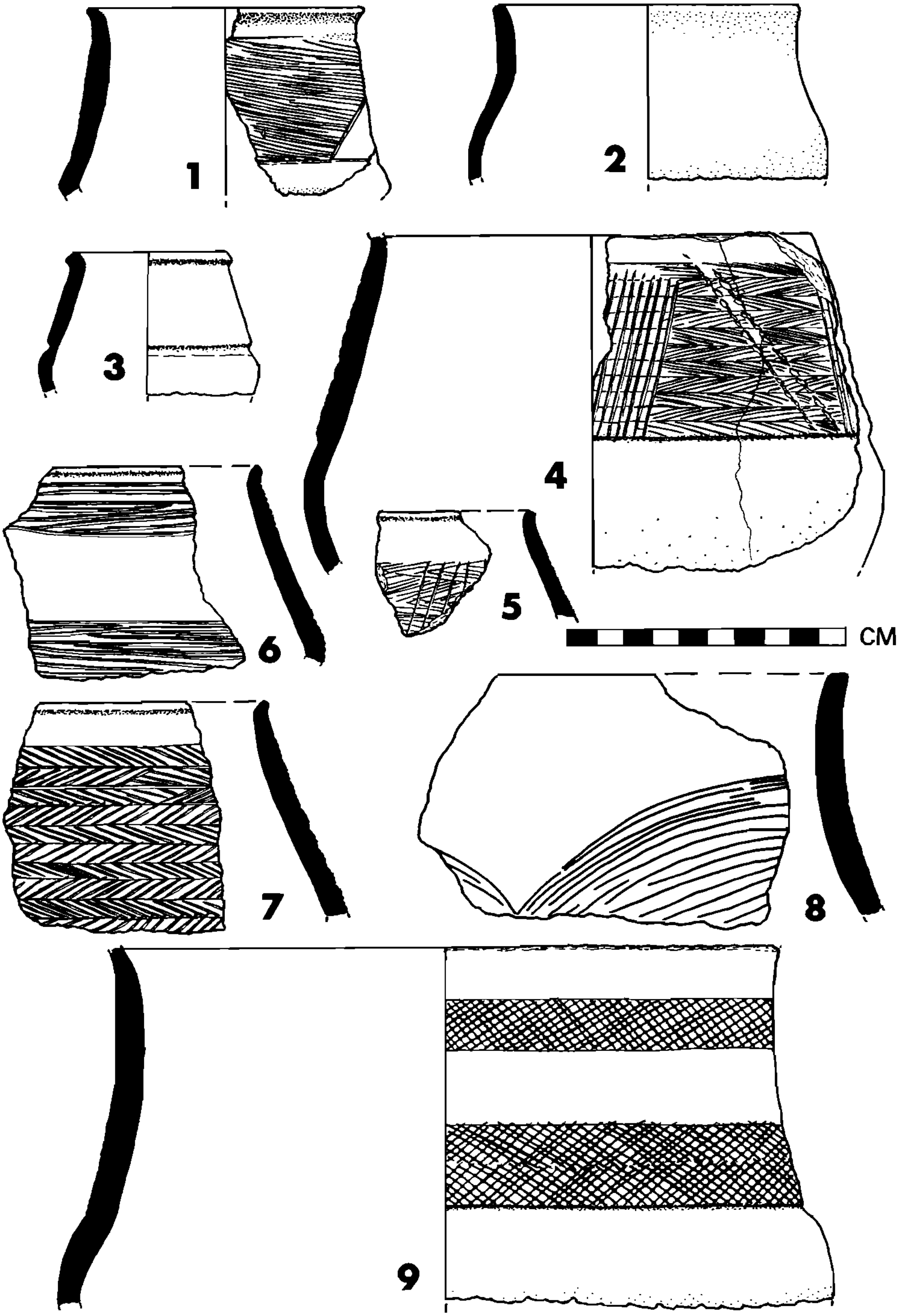

Fig. 18. A variety of necked vessels, from V.

The numerous lower grindstones are a prominent feature of the site. Most were made on large stream-rounded dolerite cobbles 30–40 cm long and about 10 cm thick, of which there are many on the banks of the Ntshekane. A few were on sandstone. Instead of having the approximately circular worn hollows of most Iron Age grindstones, they have long oval grooves worn into one or both faces. The dimensions of the grooves are relatively standardized as can be seen from the examples measured on five stones, given in Table 3.

TABLE 3
Dimensions of grooves in centimetres

Feature		*Length*	*Width*	*Depth*
I	Stone 1 . . .	20,5	6,0	1,9
I	Stone 2 . . .	23,0	5,5	2,0
	„ reverse . .	24,0	6,3	1,8
I	Stone 3 . . .	19,2	6,0	1,3
	„ reverse . .	19,3	5,0	0,9
I	Stone 4 . . .	21,0	5,7	1,6
	„ reverse . .	20,0	5,8	1,6
P	Stone 1 . . .	19,0	5,5	0,7

The great majority of stones had been deliberately broken into two or more pieces before being dumped into the pits, those from Feature I being among the few to survive. It was only possible to measure the example from P because the two pieces could be fitted back together. Most pits contained quite a number of lower grindstones, for example Feature P yielded 26 fragments.

The upper grindstones are relatively small and tend to have well-developed, although curved, facets (fig. 21, 15). There are also a number of small dolerite pebbles around 4–6 cm in diameter which were found in several of the pits. Some appear to be unmodified but others have small areas of polish from grinding.

The main evidence for iron smelting consists of pieces of slag recovered from several of the features including B1 and the Feature near B1, D, G, F, P and W. Several pieces of shale which appear to have a high iron content may have been the ore. A fragment of the end of a tuyère inserted into a furnace was found on the surface, and some corroded pieces of iron came from B1. No other associated metal work was found. A British army button of the period 1876–1902, identified by W. Rees, from the surface of Feature F is clearly a chance surface find.

FAUNAL REMAINS

The faunal material from the site was identified by R. G. Klein after preliminary work by K. J. Scott. Identifications are listed in Table 4 under the various excavated features, which can be regarded as separate closed units.

These figures make it clear that domestic animals supplied a large proportion of the meat in these people's diet. Small stock may have been slightly more numerous than cattle. Sheep were definitely identified by a horn core from Feature V, 70–120 cm, and the other caprine material could all be from sheep, although goat cannot be excluded. Remains of domestic dog came from the surface as well as the top 10 cm of Feature N, which strongly suggests, although does not quite prove, the presence of this animal during the occupation. A relatively large cattle horn core with a maximum diameter of 10,5 cm where it joins the cranium, and with a slight twist but not markedly curved, may reflect the breed of cattle present.

TABLE 4

	Surface	*B*1	*D*	*G*	1	*N*	*O*	*P*	*Q*1	*S*	*T*	*V*	*W*	*AA*	*FF*	*Total*
Felis cf. *libyca* Wildcat					1											1
Canis familiaris Domestic dog	1					1										2
Lycaon pictus Hunting dog												1				1
Procavia capensis Hyrax												1 cf				1
Potamachoerus porcus Bushpig			1 cf							1 cf		1				3
Phacochoerus aethiopicus Warthog	1															1
Raphicerus cf. *campestris* Steenbok . . .			1 cf					1 cf	1			1 cf				4
Ourebia ourebi Oribi			1 cf													1
Cephalophus cf. *monticola* Blue Duiker .						1	1									2
Sylvicapra grimmia Common Duiker . . .		1						1 cf				1	1			4
Connochaetes taurinus Blue Wildebeest .		1 cf		1 cf					1 cf			1 cf			1 cf	5
Tragelaphus angasi Nyala		1 cf														1
Bos Taurus Cattle	3	2	1	1	1–2				1	1		1	1	1 cf	1 cf	14–15
Ovis aries/Capra hircus																
Sheep (and poss. goat)		6–7	2		3–4			1	1		1	5	1 cf			20–22
Bovidae incertae sedis unidentified bovid .					1							1				2
Lepus sp. Hare		1			1	1										3
Chelonia Tortoise					1			1				1				3

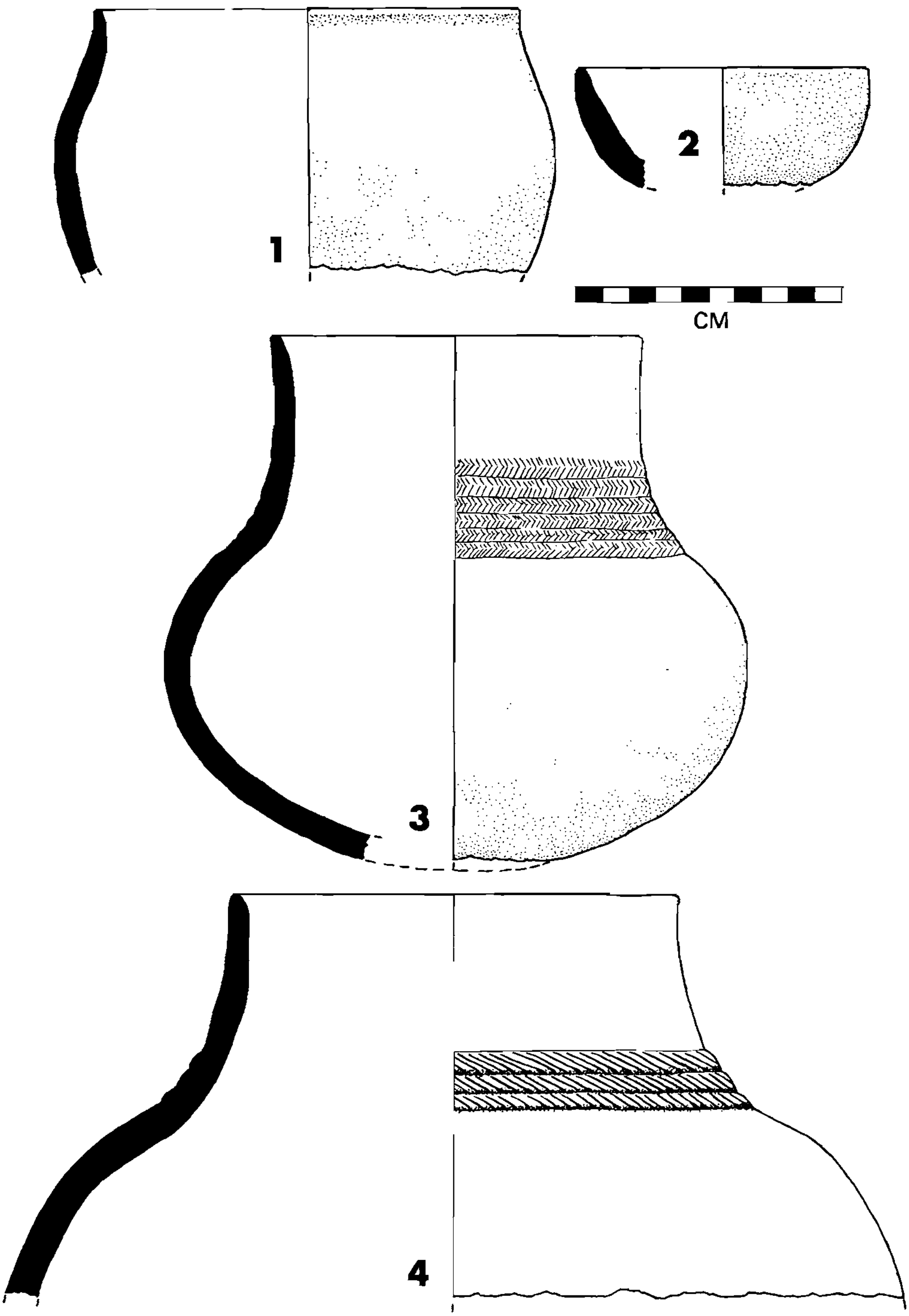

Fig. 19. Plain vessels from V and vessels with upright necks from W

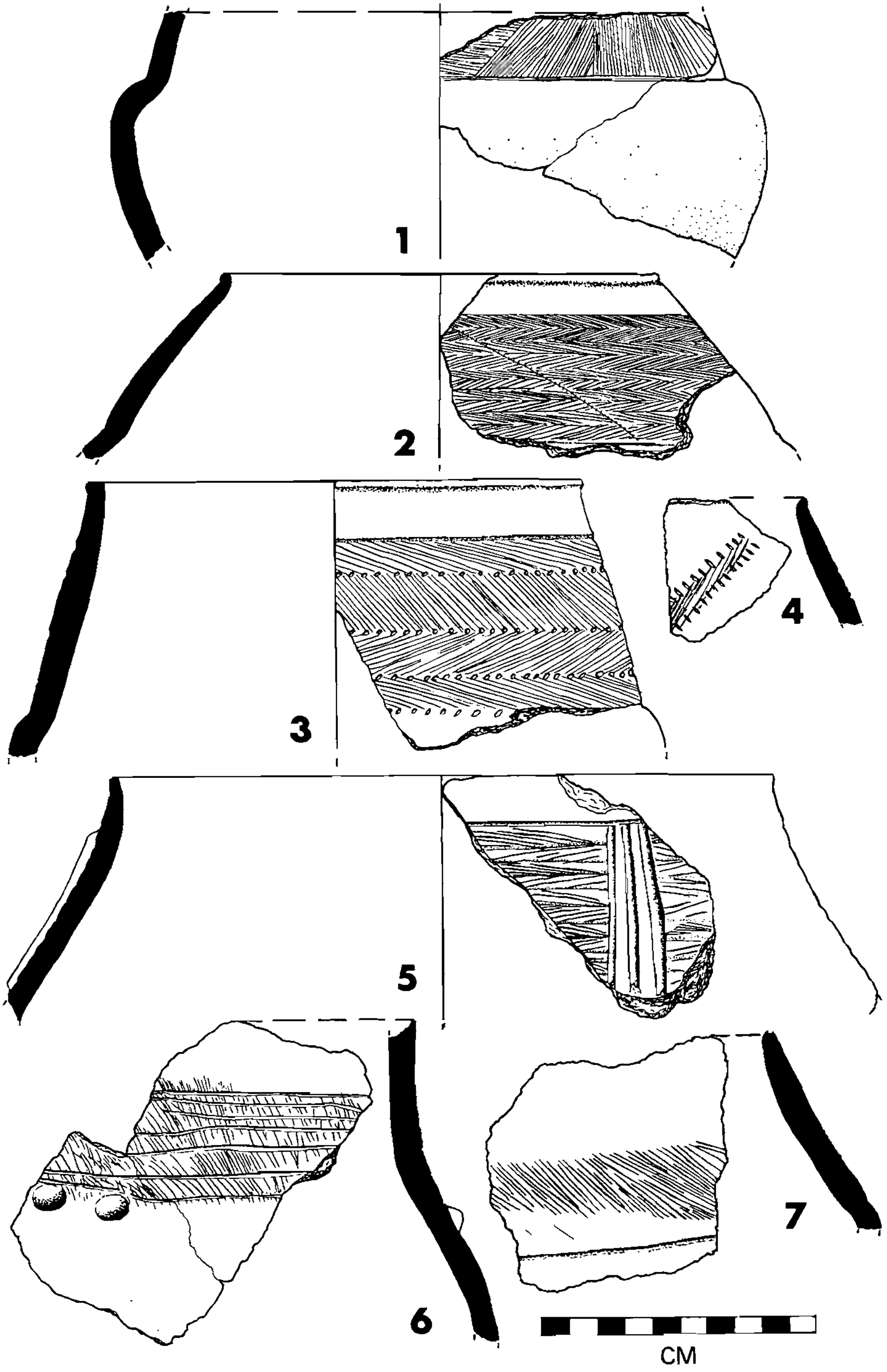

Fig. 20. Atypical shapes and decoration.

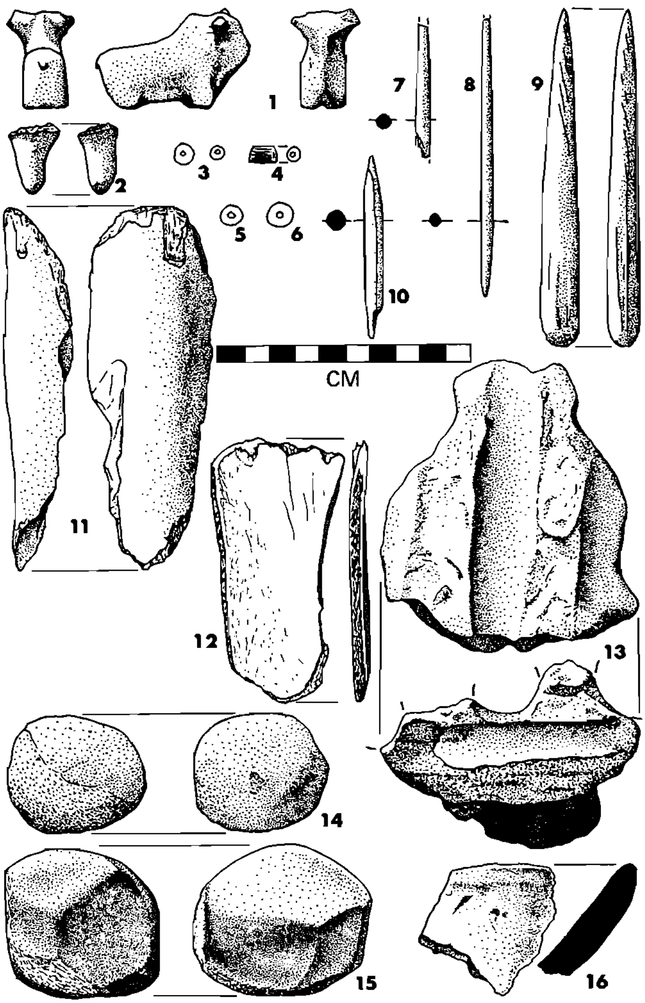

Fig. 21. Small finds.

The wild fauna is for the most part consistent with the contemporary environment although the presence of *Potamochoerus*, *Cephalophus* and *Tragelaphus angasi* indicate more thickly wooded conditions than the present degraded vegetation (J. A. J. Meester, pers. comm.). The identification of *T. angasi* well to the south of its range today is uncertain as it is based on a single tooth, but this appears to be too large for *T. scriptus*.

Remains of a small hypsodont bovid from Features I and V have not been securely identified. They are about the size of *Pelea capreolus* but do not seem to belong to this species. In addition to the mammal and tortoise remains, shells of *Metachatina* cf. *kraussi*, a large land snail, were recovered from most features, often in quantity. They may have been eaten or alternatively they may have been scavenging around the settlement. The only marine shell was a surface find of *Thais capensis*. The broad

TABLE 5

CAPRINES (SHEEP/GOAT) BY EXCAVATED FEATURE		*Bl*	*D*	*I*	*V*	*Total*
I dP4—erupting to erupted, essentially unworn . .	U				1	1
	L					
II M1 „ „	U					
	L				1	1
III M2 „ „	U					
	L	1				1
IV P4 „ „	U			1		1
	L			1		1
V M3 „ „	U	1	1	1		3
	L	1		1		2
VI M3 in early to middle wear	U	1	1			2
	L	3		1	3	7
VII M3 in late wear	U					
	L					

CATTLE BY EXCAVATED FEATURE		*Bl*	*D*	*G*	*I*	*V*	*W*	*Total*
I dP4 erupting to erupted, essentially unworn	U							
	L							
II M1 „ „	U							
	L	1						1
III M2 „ „	U							
	L							
IV M3 „ „	U				1			1
	L		1					1
V P4 „ „	U	1		1			1	3
	L							
VI P4 in early to middle wear . . .	U					1		1
	L							
VII P4 in late wear	U							
	L							

spread of the figures for wild fauna suggests that it was exploited on a rather unselective basis.

The excavated remains of domestic stock were further analysed by R. G. Klein for age at time of death, based on tooth eruption and wear. The results are given in Table 5, where the samples are divided into dental states I to VII as described.

It is probable that all the animals in dental states IV–VII are sexually mature regardless of species), which means that the majority of domestic animals represented at Ntshekane were of breeding age.

Comparisons between Ntshekane caprine ages and those from Die Kelders, a Late Stone Age site in the southern Cape, shows a considerable contrast.

Dental states	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	*Total*
Ntshekane . . .	1	1	1	1	3	8	—	15
Die Kelders . . .	5	8	11	—	1	3	2	30

The Die Kelders sheep are dated several centuries earlier than Ntshekane (Schweitzer & Scott 1973) and are from a very different cultural context. The figures suggest a different pattern of herd management, since most of the Ntshekane animals were killed when mature. This is true to a slightly lesser extent of the cattle as well, although the samples are too small for definite conclusions.

CONCLUSION

Ntshekane is an Early Iron Age village site located close to a stream and on deep soil which would presumably have been suitable for the cultivation of the relatively drought-resistant, staple Iron Age crops. The numerous grindstones imply grain cultivation, although the reason for the characteristic grooves on the lower grindstones is not known. Apart from the hut floor, no *in situ* remains of above ground structures were found, but it appears that huts were of pole and thatch plastered with daga. Cattle, sheep and probably domestic dogs were kept and a range of wild animals were hunted or collected. Iron was smelted on a small scale.

The presence of bone arrow-heads of Late Stone Age pattern, disc beads made of *Metachatina* and possibly associated stone implements, brings up the question of relationships between Iron and Stone Age populations. However, there is insufficient evidence from the site for the question to be answered.

Deep pits like those described above are by now familiar from the Early Iron Age of southern Africa although they have not been described from Natal before. They may originally have been dug as grain stores but they certainly ended as receptacles for domestic rubbish. The detailed stratigraphy of several pits, notably Features N, O and V, suggests that the bottom part of the fill accumulated relatively slowly as the sweepings from domestic hearths and huts. This was succeeded by an apparently single episode when a large quantity of cultural debris was dumped, including almost complete pots and deliberately broken lower grindstones. On top of this in turn, the fill consists of the natural soil with a few small sherds and bones. This may have been a deliberate filling of the pits or more likely just a natural silting up. The main dumping episode is strongly indicative of an abandonment of the village, the breaking of grindstones being a symbol that survived into historic times in Natal. Alternatively, a hut and its contents may have been destroyed after the death of its owner. Some pits, such as Feature P, do not have a basal ash deposit. Here, instead, the main dumping episode filled the very bottom of the pit. This would suggest either that it was a recently abandoned grain-pit or that it was specially dug for the purpose. The shallower hollows may have been smaller storage pits or specific rubbish pits. The concentration of features and the different types of pottery indicate that the site was occupied more than once. It may indeed have been periodically reoccupied over several centuries.

The great majority of the pottery, as represented by the inward sloping necks and their cluster of associated characteristics, is a new Iron Age cultural entity. The two radiocarbon dates in the ninth century are both associated with this material and we may therefore conclude that it is a relatively late phase of the Early Iron Age in Natal.

The vessels with everted necks and their associated features are, by contrast, typical of the material described by Schofield as NC3, and which is now known from quite a number of coastal and inland sites. Furthermore, it is relatively similar to the pottery from several Early Iron Age sites in the Transvaal dated to around the fifth century A.D. (Mason *et al.* 1973; Inskeep & Maggs 1976). Although such material is still undated in Natal the evidence suggests that it goes back several centuries earlier than the typical Ntshekane pottery which presumably evolved from it.

The term NC3 is now clearly a misnomer, for Schofield (1935: 520; 1937: 993 & 1003) regarded this pottery as being relatively late in his sequence, just preceding Nguni ethnological material and perhaps influencing it. We suggest that NC3 should be replaced by the term *Natal Early Iron Age* as an interim measure until the cultural sequence as a whole is better understood. This term would embrace the typical Ntshekane material as well.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful for the help of a number of people during excavation and in the preparation of this paper. In the field we were assisted by O. Davies, S. Reynders, C. de B. Webb, J. Wright, members of the South African Archaeological Society and students of the University of Natal. Our camp was organized by V. Maggs on the farm of J. Hall and we were given permission to excavate by the Hermannsburg Mission. R. Evans first showed us the site.

The fauna was identified and analysed by R. G. Klein after preliminary work by K. J. Scott; molluscs were identified by R. N. Kilburn and fossil material by D. A. Hooijer. F. R. Schweitzer allowed us to quote the sheep data from Die Kelders. Dating samples were processed by J. C. Vogel. P. Hall and V. Ward helped with the preparation of the paper which was typed by P. Jerling.

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APPENDICES

Fig. 5

1. Everted necked vessel with the position of the body/neck junction shown by a change in the decoration. This consists of bold hatching in a band of interlocking parallelograms, in bands of opposed hatching and pendant triangles on the body of the pot. The ware is coarse and orange with a smooth matt finish. Feature nr. B1.
2. Everted necked vessel with bold decoration of uneven cross-hatching above a band of horizontal grooves and, pendant on to the body, triangles and ladder-like panels. The ware is coarse and is orange/buff in colour. From B.

Fig. 6

1. Everted necked vessel with pronounced body/neck junction marked by a groove. The bold decoration includes a band of interlocking parallelograms below the lip and two opposed bands of hatching, while the upper part of the body is covered with hatched panels leaving undecorated triangles pendant from the neck. The ware is reddish buff and fairly fine with a few grit inclusions.
2. Everted necked vessel with uneven cross-hatched decoration below the lip and a band of horizontal grooves, the lowest of which marks the body/neck junction. Triangles are pendant from this on to the body. The ware is grey with fine grits.
3. Everted necked vessel with bands of interlocking parallelograms and triangles. The bottom line marks the body/neck junction. Pendant panels are suspended from this. The ware is reddish buff.

Fig. 7

1. Inward sloping necked vessel with body/neck junction marked by a groove. The main decorative element is a band of horizontal grooves which is interrupted by groups of vertical and oblique grooves. External lip emphasis. The ware is buff and matt on the outside but black inside. From B1.
2. Sherd from a vessel similar to (1) with bands of opposed hatching separated by deep grooves, interrupted by a group of six oblique grooves. The ware is also very like (1). From B1.
3. Open-mouthed bowl with flared out lip, black in colour and rather roughly finished. From B1.
4. Hemispherical bowl roughly finished and orange/buff in colour. From 4 m SE of B2.
5. A slightly incurved bowl of rather coarse ware orange in colour, well finished. From a feature near B1.
6. A sherd from a rather large flat dish with short upright sides. From B.

Fig. 8

1. A particularly small example of the inward sloping neck (compare 3 on this plate), with bands of opposed hatching and body/neck junction marked by a deep groove. External lip emphasis. This fine vessel is nearly black in colour and well burnished.
2. Inward sloping necked vessel without decoration but with body/neck junction well marked by a groove and the change in direction. External lip emphasis. This vessel is rather roughly finished and is fire blackened.
3. Inward sloping necked vessel with well defined body/neck junction, marked by a groove, and a broad band of decoration consisting of bands of opposed hatching interrupted by oblique grooves. External lip emphasis. This vessel is well finished and partially burnished, with a mottled appearance partly due to fire blackening.
4. Inward sloping necked vessel with a band of horizontal grooves round the neck, the bottom of which marks the body/neck junction. External lip emphasis. This vessel is dark with a matt finish but no definite fire blackening.

Fig. 9

1. Inward sloping necked vessel with bands of opposed hatching. This pot is unusual in having a grooved lip. It is burnished above the decoration with ochre and on the body of the pot with black.
2. Small bowl with very much flattened inturned lip and with decoration in the form of horizontal grooves, making it exceptional in both respects. Crudely finished and rather mottled appearance.
3. Rather crudely finished bag-shaped vessel intermediate between pot and bowl. Poorly fired with mottled colouring.
4. Deep, straight sided bowl with rather thick walls slightly inward sloping. Dark, nearly black in places and roughly burnished.
5. Hollow base, the only example found. It is poorly fired, black inside and only slightly reddened on the outside, which is matt. No evidence for the type of vessel from which it came.
6. Small open-mouthed bowl rather crudely made.
7. Open-mouthed bowl with rather straight sides. Roughly finished and dark in colour.
8. Large open-mouthed bowl with flattened rim. Rather roughly finished, with lines from manufacture. Reddish-buff on the outside but black over most of the inside.

Fig. 10

1. Inward sloping necked vessel with body/neck junction shown by change in direction and faint grooving. The band of cross-hatched decoration is rather roughly carried out. The surface is matt and fire blackened towards the base. Colour ranging from grey/buff to black. From O.
2. Sherd from an inward sloping necked vessel with the body/neck junction emphasized by a groove and also evident in the difference of thickness between the walls of body and neck. This pot has decoration which can only be categorized as cross-hatching, but is unlike the usual form of this. The vessel is dark, black in part. From O, 80–90 cm.
3. Fine inward sloping necked vessel with body/neck junction marked by a slight groove, and with bands of fine cross-hatched decoration. The surface of the pot is dark buff and shows traces of burnish. Although well finished, the ware of this vessel includes large grits and is quite coarse. From P.

Fig. 11

1. Inward sloping necked vessel with the body/neck junction shown by a groove at the bottom of the band of decoration, which consists of bands of opposed hatching each slightly rounded giving the effect of a cord wrapped around the neck. Dark and well burnished.
2. Small inward sloping necked vessel with body/neck junction sharply defined and with a band of horizontal grooves crossed by both diagonal and vertical interruptions—the latter a combination of lines and impressions. Dark and neatly burnished.
3. Typical inward sloping necked vessel with body/neck junction indicated by the bottom of the band of decoration which consists of bands of opposed hatching. Dark and burnished.

Fig. 15

1. Vessel with sharply marked body/neck junction and external lip emphasis. The bands of opposed hatching are interrupted by grooves. The body is darker than the rest of the pot and burnished as is the neck above the decoration.
2. Vessel with a groove marking the body/neck junction, and finely incised opposed hatching. A functional pot with a matt surface finish.
3. Crudely made vessel with an irregular groove marking the body/neck junction, and rough opposed hatching. This pot has thick walls and is fire blackened.

Fig. 16

1. Open-mouthed bowl, rather roughly made with a slightly out-turned lip.
2. Miniature bowl, very roughly finished, perhaps a toy.
3. Well made, hemispherical bowl, dark in colour and slightly burnished.
4. Similar bowl to 3 but with flared lip and grey to buff in colour.
5. Sherd from inward sloping neck broken off at body/neck junction, with typical bands of opposed hatching, grooves between rows and interruption by vertical grooves. The top of the band is formed by a row of impressions and the lip is also decorated. Dark grey with a matt surface.

Fig. 17

1. Large inward sloping necked vessel with groove marking body/neck junction, and bands of opposed hatching divided by grooves, interrupted by vertical grooves. Mottled orange and grey/buff and burnished. Compare with fig. 8, 1 to show the extreme size range among this group of vessels.
2. Small inward sloping necked vessel with poorly defined body/neck junction. Undecorated but burnished.

Fig. 18

1. Small inward sloping neck with sharp angles at body/neck junction, carination, and external lip emphasis. The band of roughly executed horizontal grooves ends where it meets a diagonal groove. The exact nature of this break is uncertain. Buff to grey with a matt finish. From V, 70–120 cm.
2. Small vessel with neck sloping inwards slightly but curving out again at lip. Well finished, dark and burnished. From V, surface.
3. Very small inward sloping necked vessel, undecorated and with matt finish except in the groove marking the body/neck junction where it is burnished. Lip sharply emphasised. From V, 170 cm.
4. Handsomely decorated inward sloping necked vessel with groove marking the body/neck junction. Bands of opposed hatching interrupted by parallel grooves plus a double row of impressions. This covers most of the neck, coming close to the lip. Orange on the neck with ochre and black burnish. From V, 170 cm.
5. Sherd from a small inward sloping neck with graphite burnish above the band of opposed hatching, interrupted by a number of parallel grooves. From V, below 170 cm.
6. Sherd from an inward sloping neck broken at the body/neck junction, with two bands of horizontal grooves round the neck. Dark, with the area between the two bands of decoration burnished. From V, 120–170 cm.

7. Sherd from an inward sloping neck broken at the body/neck junction. Bands of opposed hatching with intervening grooves covering most of the neck apart from a strip above the decoration which is burnished. From V, 70–120 cm.
8. Sherd from a large inward sloping neck broken at the body/neck junction. Matt grey surface with arcades of parallel grooves. From V, below 170 cm.
9. Large vessel with rather upright, inward sloping neck and well defined body/neck junction. Decorated with bands of cross hatching and burnished on the undecorated areas. Black to buff. From V, 120–170 cm.

Fig. 19

1. Inturned bowl with upright lip. An example of a vessel on the border line between pot and bowl. Matt finish and fire blackened. From V, below 170 cm.
2. Small, hemispherical bowl, orange inside buff outside. From V, 120–170 cm.
3. Upright necked vessel with body/neck junction marked by bottom line of decoration and with graphite burnish. The decoration is opposed cross hatching with grooves between pairs of bands which are slightly shaped to give a cord effect. From W.
4. Large upright necked vessel with a band of decoration round the body/neck junction consisting of rows of hatching, not opposed but thickened to give a corded effect. Orange/buff with a matt surface finish. From W.

Fig. 20

1. Inward sloping necked vessel with shoulder of body sharply curved and neck slightly convex. The sharp angle at the body/neck junction is emphasized by grooving. The exact nature of the decoration is not clear but consists of irregular areas of hatching in different directions. The body has graphite burnish. From EE.
2. Sherd from an inward sloping necked vessel with a convex neck and a groove marking the body/neck junction. The rich band of decoration covers most of the neck apart from a narrow strip below the rim with ochre burnish, which also occurs on the body. The bands of opposed hatching are particularly fine and they are interrupted by a diagonal groove with a row of impressions along its length, giving a stitched effect. The ware contains sand. From the surface.
3. Rather upright example of an inward sloping neck with bands of opposed hatching separated by lines of impressions, the lowest of which emphasizes the body/neck junction. External lip emphasis. Dark ware. From the surface.
4. Sherd from an inward sloping neck with an oblique motif of grooves and impressions very like those used as interruptions. From I, below 90 cm.
5. Inward sloping neck decorated with bands of opposed hatching with intervening grooves and an interruption made by three applied vertical bands. This was the only example of applied decoration used as an interruption. From the surface.
6. Sherd from inward sloping neck with roughly executed decoration of horizontal grooves crossed by less strongly marked diagonal incisions; a sort of cross hatching. Two applied bosses just below. The ware is dark and rather coarse. From I, 0–70 cm.
7. Sherd from a crude inward sloping neck with the body/neck junction marked by a groove and change of angle. Roughly executed oblique hatching forms an irregular band round the neck. From V, below 1,70 cm.

Fig. 21

1. Small ceramic cattle figurine with hump. Surface find.
2. Probably a horn or leg from a ceramic figurine. From I.
3. Two shell beads, made from *Metachatina*. From W.
4. Cylindrical bead much corroded but apparently made of glass. From W.
5. & 6. Larger shell beads, of *Metachatina*. From B and V.
7. Part of bone point broken at both ends. From O.
8. Bone arrow-head of Late Stone Age type, tip missing. From O.
9. Heavy bone point, function unknown. From V, below 1,70 m.
10. Cylindrical bone object pointed at both ends, perhaps a link shaft. From B1.
11. Bone fragment showing extensive chipping at upper end as if it has been used as a gouge. From V, below 1,70 m.
12. Flat fragment of bone with pronounced rounding and polishing at upper end from use as a scraper.
13. Piece of burnt daga preserving impressions of poles running in two directions, presumably from the wall of a pole and daga hut. From hut floor, U.
14. Natural spherical dolerite pebble with traces of polish from grinding. From V.
15. Faceted and polished upper grindstone. From B.
16. Fragment of carved metamorphic rock from a stone bowl. From G.